

The Other World

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SCENE 1 - EXT - WOODLAND

FX: IN A LARGE WOODLAND, WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS FROM 2 PAIRS OF WALKING BOOTS. THROUGHOUT KEVIN'S SPIEL, BUDDUG NODS IN AGREEMENT WHERE NECESSARY.

KEVIN Okay so, in a nutshell my work as Plant and Seed Health Surveyor on behalf of the Health of Animal and Plant Agency is to conduct and maintain the high standard of plant life health in Wales. Through this I contribute towards the nationwide strategies of safeguarding the health of all animals and plants.

I fulfill these expectations by prevention, limiting or delaying the infected plants in quarantine, regulating the infection of other plants by ensuring the excellent quality of implantation devices. I also oversee trade through providing a certification service for the health of plants. Our strategy is to "provide a better place to live" through destroying and limiting any diseases and other quarantine risks. We also notify and train the public, shareholders, the government and other non-government organizations in plant biosafety. Research on fresh produce and marketing standards are also upheld in addition to the controls of the Health of Animals and Pla-

Oh! That's a rare bird isn't it?! It's absolutely enormous!

BUDDUG Oh yes!

FX THE GIANT BIRD CRIES

BEAT

KEVIN Huh...I've not seen one of them before...Anyway ...I wanted to bring you out here on your first day Buddug because this place has been something of a haven to me for over 20 years. Especially when things get a bit tough, during the likes of foot and mouth and covid you know ... places like this are powerful. You don't have to think too hard, you can forget for a bit. Thought it was a nice way of easing you in before...ugh..passing the baton over to you...

BUDDUG Thanks.

KEVIN We intend to implement a shift pattern of four days on and four days off but I'm not sure when exactly that will come into effect...but I'll keep my fingers crossed for you! I'll also go through all of your responsibilities in the office but just keep an eye on anything that looks out of place for now.

BUDDUG Great. Got it!

KEVIN So, do you have a husband? Kids?

BUDDUG No.

KEVIN What?! A pretty girl like you..

BUDDUG I'm gay. My girlfriend's name is Mia.

BEAT

KEVIN Oh right then. Well..there we are. There's actually a cafe 'round the corner. They make these matcha lattes - bloody gorgeous they are - can I tempt you?

BUDDUG That sounds lovely.

KEVIN Perfect, great. Back in a flash!

FX: BUDDUG CONTINUES TO WALK ON. HER PHONE RINGS.

BUDDUG (*answering*) Hey, Mia listen...I'm really sorry but I have to prioritize my first day..so if I can just...

Mhmmm

Mhmmmm. Yup...I do understand! But- Mia! Please! Look we've talked about this so many times now- I'm not ready to put it all over insta you know that! Mia- no wait just hang on a second-

FX: MIA HANGS UP ON BUDDUG

BUDDUG Damn.

FX: WE HEAR BIRD NOISES AND GENERAL WOODLAND NOISE. SUDDENLY THERE'S A HIGH PITCHED NOISE.

BUDDUG What was that? Kev, are you okay?

FX: THE HIGH PITCHED NOISE REPEATS BUT SLIGHTLY LOUDER **BUDDUG** Hello?

FX: SWOOPING NOISE OF WINGS AND THE HIGH PITCHED NOISE IS DIRECTLY OVER BUDDUG'S HEAD NOW

BUDDUG Oh no.

FX: BUDDUG STARTS RUNNING

BUDDUG Oh god, it's following me! I need to hide!!

FX: FLAPPING OF WINGS NOISE AND THE HIGH PITCHED NOISE TURNS INTO SOMETHING MORE FEROCIOUS.

BUDDUG Wait, that tree has a hole in it - maybe if I climb in there it'll think I've disappeared.

FX: THE MONSTER GETS EXCEEDINGLY CLOSE

BUDDUG Now or never Buddug!

FX: BUDDUG JUMPS INTO A HOLE IN THE TREE AND BANGS HER HEAD ON IT.

BUDDUG OUCH!

FX: THE MONSTER CRIES THAT HE CAN'T GET TO BUDDUG. FLAPS THEIR WINGS, SMELLS AT THE TREE TRUNK AND THEN GIVES UP AND FLIES AWAY

BUDDUG My head, christ. I think I'll just lie down and close my eyes for a second.

**FX: THE WORD 'FUNUD' ECHOES AND CARRIES US INTO A SOUNDSCAPE SCENE 2 - EXT -
MAGICAL WOODLAND**

ATMOS: ECHOEY HARP MUSIC PLAYS AMONGST WOODLAND SOUNDS.

BUDDUG (*echoey/from inside the tree*) Where in the world....wait, is that a harp? How hard did I hit my head?!

FX: A VOICE GIGGLES FROM THE DISTANCE

MABON Look! I told you she wasn't dead! So come on - pay up! **FX:**
A BIRD CHIRPS BACK AT THEM IN RESPONSE

MABON Ha! Yeah yeah you say that everytime, one of these days I will win your firstborn, mark my words. Come on!

**FX: MABON AND CELYN THE BIRDS WINGS FLY OVER. MABON BANGS ON THE
TREE THAT BUDDUG IS HIDING IN**

MABON Knock, knock Otherworld! Time to wake up!

BUDDUG (*echoey/from inside the tree*) Otherworld?

MABON Come out! You can't stay in there forever!

FX: BUDDUG CRAWLS OUT OF THE WHOLE IN THE TREE

MABON Wow. You're so...boring

BUDDUG Boring?!

MABON Well the last being that crossed worlds...they were much bigger than you and they had four legs!

BUDDUG Do you mean they were like a...centaur?

MABON Kind of...more like half Hippo, half person? Would you say that's right Celyn?

FX: CELYN THE BIRD MAKES A NOISE AS IF TO AGREE

BUDDUG Wow, well I'm sorry to disappoint you...

BEAT

MABON Oh! So sorry, I'm Mabon! I'm a corlun!

BUDDUG Cor-what?

MABON You know? A fairy creature that lives by the water?

BUDDUG Oh a sprite!

MABON Huh...that sounds like something you'd drink..anyway this is Celyn! She's a jayglas!

BUDDUG Ah! Blue Jay! *(to self)* Welsh is so funny sometimes.

FX: CELYN MAKES A NOISE TO GREET BUDDUG

BUDDUG Well hello to you too!

MABON We walk this world us two, usually just causing trouble, mischief, tomfoolery you know? But it's all a bit of fun really!

FX: CELYN MAKES A NOISE

MABON *(agreeing)* No, yeah exactly we're not bad! Just a bit-

FX: A LOUD BOOMING NOISE

BUDDUG What was that?

MABON Oh I'm sure it's nothing.

FX: THE LOUD BOOMING NOISE GETS LOUDER

BUDDUG Are you sure?

MABON Totally.

FX: THE LOUD BOOMING NOISE GETS LOUDER AGAIN

BUDDUG It sounds like it's getting closer?

MABON Okay maybe we do need to panic a little.

BUDDUG What?!

FX: THE LOUD BOOMING NOISE GETS LOUDER AGAIN 7

MABON Okay. We need to run, now. Follow me.

FX: THEY ALL START RUNNING

BUDDUG What are we running from?

MABON A monster that eats your soul..you know...quite predictable if you ask me but what can you do, talk to it?

BUDDUG Why not?

MABON Did you forget the part when I said it eats your soul?

BUDDUG Have you seen that happen? Maybe he just wants to talk.

MABON What is it with women like you, anything that's a tiny bit unhinged you want to rescue it? It's a wild monster that eats souls. That's all the information you need. Trust me.

BUDDUG Okay sorry...

MABON Quick! Let's climb the Salices by the lake!

FX: MABON'S WINGS CARRY THEM AWAY SHARPLY

BUDDUG Salices?! Oh god...what was that!! WILLOW! That willow! Okay! Got it!

SCENE 3 - EXT - UP A GIANT WILLOW NEAR A LAKE

FX: MABON HELPS BUDDUG TO CLIMB UP. MABON SLIPS, ALMOST FALLING INTO THE LAKE BESIDES THEM. SHE FALLS INTO BUDDUG'S ARMS

MABON I've got you- don't worry!

BUDDUG Thanks. I've never been very good at climbing. Without you, I definitely would be in that lake right now or I'd have given up/

MABON But isn't that the point of having any sort of relationship? To help where you can and fill the gaps in someone's knowledge....Is that not a thing that happens in the world of men?

BUDDUG You know... I think it was at some point... but sometimes things get so complicated, it's hard to get a clear look on what's easy and what's right.

FX: THEY CONTINUE TO CLIMB TO THE TOP OF A TALL WILLOW TREE NEXT TO A LAKE

MABON We should be safe up here..

BUDDUG What sort of monster is it?

MABON Difficult to describe really....it takes the shape of the thing you fear the most. So for me it looks like me - except I'm dying. But don't be fooled, it works hard to pull you in so that it can feed on your soul. I've seen it happen. It's not a pretty sight.

BUDDUG Right...it sounds like....a bird.....or a dinosaur?

MABON Yeah his regular form is a Pterosaur-thingy.

BUDDUG Is there any way for it to leave you alone?

MABON I haven't seen one, but people say if you give in to your deepest fears, your bravery can overcome the attack entirely.

BEAT

Sounds like utter fairypoo to me but who knows!

BUDDUG Right...I don't even know what my deepest fear is/

FX: BUDDUG'S PHONE RINGS

BUDDUG How on earth is my phone ringing out here?

FX: BUDDUG ANSWERS THE PHONE

FX: MIA SPEAKS DOWN THE PHONE AT BUDDUG

BUDDUG Hey Mi...

FX: MIA GETS MORE AND MORE AGGRAVATED AT NOT BEING ABLE TO HEAR BUDDUG

BUDDUG Mia, I am here! I promise!

FX: MIA HANGS UP

FX: BUDDUG EXHALES

MABON They sound angry...

BUDDUG It's complicated. I'm sure she is angry with me. We've been together for three, four months maybe? She's really big on socials and I'm just...not? Really not my thing. She's putting a lot of pressure on me to do some sort of - soft launch for us on my socials. If I'm honest I just don't want anyone to know my personal business. Our relationship is so precious to me and I don't want anything to mess that up.

MABON What is....socials?

BUDDUG Like a newspaper that's on your phone? This thing that just rang?

MABON What is neooooos payypuh?

BUDDUG Ugh - how would you share any news?

MABON We ask the fungi network to share it through their electrical language and they declare the news throughout the whole forest! It's only ever used for the happiest of news like a wedding announcement or an invitation to a birthday party!

BUDDUG So imagine this, your new partner wants you to share with the...fungi network and everyone else in the forest that you're in a new relationship...

MABON That's very odd.

BUDDUG Exactly!

MABON But is it important to her?

BUDDUG Well, yes..

MABON Are you willing to compromise about it?

BEAT

BUDDUG I just, it's not that I don't want to compromise..but

MABON Sounds like you don't want to.

BUDDUG Huh...maybe I don't...do you think that makes me selfish?

MABON Well if it was important to you that your partner showed the world they love you in a specific way, would you want them to do it for you?

BUDDUG I see your point...But what she's asking it's just...I'm scared my family wouldn't like her or wouldn't be supportive...

MABON That's WILD your family would be unwilling for you to be with the person that makes you happy?

BUDDUG Yes...

FX: THE MONSTER NOISE ECHOES THROUGH THE CAVE BUDDUG &

MABON Oh shit/Oh no!

MABON CLIMB!

FX: THEY START CLIMBING EVEN HIGHER

BUDDUG FASTER!

FX: THE MONSTER NOISE GETS CLOSER

MABON It's catching up!

BUDDUG Then climb faster!

FX: THE MONSTER NOISE GETS CLOSER AGAIN

MABON There's no way out Buddug, it's catching up too quickly. You'll have to face it.

BUDDUG But/

MABON It's the only chance we have!

FX: THE MONSTER NOISE IS RIGHT BEHIND THEM

MABON NOW!

BUDDUG LOOK! I'm not going to change my mind. It's not a phase. I love Mia with my whole heart. If that doesn't go with your idea of my future, or my job or where I live - well guess what - it's MY future and my life!

FX: THE MONSTER NOISE CRACKLE NOISE CONTINUES OVER IT'S FOLLOWING DIALOUGUE

KEVIN/MONSTER You're a fool Buddug, you're completely useless. You don't fit in! You will never be the daughter your parents want you to be. You know your family will judge you for this 'phase', is it worth being ostracized for her?

BUDDUG HER NAME IS MIA! I want to spend the rest of my life with the person that makes me the happiest I've ever been. I will gladly make myself an open book for HER! If this is the end well, so be it! At least I died declaring my love unapologetically and LOUD AS HELL for Mia!

FX: THE MONSTER NOISE CRACKLES, GIVES ONE LAST SCREAM FX: THE GIRLS INHALE IN FEAR, AS IF IT'S THEIR LAST BREATH SILENCE

SCENE 4 - EXT - WOODLAND

FX: IN A LARGE WOODLAND

BUDDUG Ouch...*(pain noises)* how hard did I hit my head?!

FX: THE SOUND OF CELYN'S WINGS LANDING NEAR BUDDUG

BUDDUG Oh hey there Celyn...

FX: CELYN TWEETS AT BUDDUG

BUDDUG I'm alright don't worry little Celyn. I'll be fine, it's just a headache. I know what I need now. I think I'm ready.

FX: BUDDUG STRUGGLING GETTING UP FROM THE GROUND FX: THE ROBIN TWEETS AT BUDDUG AGAIN

BUDDUG No, thanks to you; Mabon and Celyn. You'll never know how much this day meant to me.

FX: BUDDUG WALKS AWAY

FX: CELYN FLIES AWAY

SCENE 5 - EXT - WOODLAND

KEVIN Ah Buddug, I was wondering where you wandered off to! Your flat white is a bit cold, sorry! But here it is!

BUDDUG Don't worry! It's probably an iced flat white by now!

KEVIN Are you ok? You're holding your head?

BUDDUG Oh yeah completely fine, something just.. fell and hit me in the forest I think.

KEVIN Get used to it I'm afraid.. I'd be a millionaire if I had a pound every time that happened to me. Are you sure you're alright though? No concussion?

BUDDUG No, no, I'm fine!

KEVIN Right, shall we go on then?

BUDDUG Sorry, can I just take a minute? I need to send a text - I'll be quick.

KEVIN No problem, just catch up on the path when you're ready.

FX: KEVIN STARTS WALKING AWAY

FX: ON BUDDUGS PHONE SHE PRESSES THE BUTTON TO VOICE NOTE

MIA

BUDDUG Hey Mia, sorry that I lost you earlier but I just want to say...I love you and I miss you. I think maybe next weekend it might be nice for you to meet my parents? I'm so sorry that I've been dragging my feet a bit on this whole 'soft launch' of our relationship but I've realized today, maybe I had more insecurities than I shared with you and that's really unfair on you...to say something and then act different when we're not together..basically I'm sorry. I would love it if you said yes and we can face the consequences together. With you by my side, I feel like I can do anything.

FX: BUDDUG PRESSES SEND

BUDDUG Gosh, a three minute voice note...she'll think I'm mental.

FX: BUDDUG WALKS QUICKLY AWAY