

I need a Hero by Isobel De'Ath

I smiled as I opened my eyes, seeing the golden sun stream through the window while the birds sang. I got out of bed and put on my slippers and my fluffy dressing gown. I walked into the kitchen and started making some tea. I reached up and opened a cupboard to get some sugar, my old bones creaking as I did so. I found it and fetched a teaspoon. Then I poured one spoonful of sugar into the mug and put it on the table to cool down while I got a bowl and spoon and poured some cornflakes into the bowl. Just then I heard a scraping sound so I went to investigate. I crept along the hallway stopping only to listen to where it was coming from. Definitely coming from the front of the house, I thought. I arrived at the door. The scraping sound had stopped. I slowly opened it. There, running away, chuckling with evil delight, were two children. One was a boy with short brown hair, a white T-shirt, blue jeans and scuffed trainers. The other was a girl with long blonde hair, a grey jacket, denim skinny jeans and grey Ugg boots. "What are you doing?" I called after them, but the only answer was a faint "Look behind you!" Then all was quiet apart from the rustling of the leaves. I stepped out of the house and turned around. Carved into the wall was "BEWARE WITCH" all over the cottage. I stared in horror. Then I remembered my cup of tea and wandered back inside and sat down with it. I wondered what could I do? How could I cover it up? Then I had a marvellous idea, I could cover it up with wooden treats!!!

By the end of the day my cottage looked delightful, covered in twenty different kinds of hand crafted wooden sweets, biscuits and cakes. I also added a wooden dog biscuit in memory of Woof, my beloved dog who died two months ago after fifteen years of happy days. I still have his cage, which stands in the same place in the kitchen it always had. At around 3 o'clock I was standing by the oven baking scones, when I heard a rustling sound outside. Within seconds I was at the door and threw it open. Two children with shocked expressions held onto a wooden biscuit each while staring back at me. As I looked I saw they were the children I saw running back into the forest that morning! But now close up I could see they were scruffy and stick-thin, clearly neglected. I felt sympathy for them, so asked "Would you like to come in and have some tea and scones?"

Half an hour later the two children were sitting at my table with only a few crumbs on the plates before them. I started to collect in the plates when the girl said "Can I help?", so I gave her the plates and we walked into the kitchen and put the plates on the side. As we did so the girl glanced round but turned back quickly. Then I returned to the living room to discover the boy rummaging through my jewellery set! I saw him holding up the pearl necklace that my mother, grandmother and great-grandmother had worn. He tucked it in his jeans pocket just as I yelled "STOP!" Suddenly I felt a hard push in my back and went tumbling over almost breaking my arm. I felt someone grab my wrists and pull hard. "There's a cage in the kitchen Hansel, we could put her in it" shouted the girl. "Good idea Gretel!" Hansel called back. I was struggling while they dragged me into the kitchen. Hansel shoved me into the cage, took the key which was on top, and locked the door. "You will never get away with this" I screamed. "Oh yes we will" smirked Hansel, "we will tell everyone that you locked me in a cage and made Gretel work". "And that we had to push you into the fire!" Gretel cackled. With that they left, leaving the cottage a tip and with no jewellery box. I am still sitting here in the darkness of the night, watching and waiting

for anyone, anyone who comes passing by and happens to wander in. There will be no rescue I think. But still I will watch and wait for a hero to save me, forever.