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The Visit

By Daniel Cappello

Ominous clouds began to clear the sky as the sun rose above the gleamed pasture, the birds chirped graciously. The nature of ambiance surrounded through the valley. Every living creature made their way to the fresh grown crops. She looked at the ground as it glistened from the condensation of fog. Slight thunder barked in the distance, moving further away. “Where am I?” she said.

In front of her resided a brush of long grain, she walks through. At the end of the clearing, a red barn next to a Victorian house only a few hundred yards away, looked familiar. It’s as though she’s seen this before. The front door swung open, out ran a little girl. She continued to step closer to realize that this little girl looked just like her. “Excuse me?” she said.

No response, the little girl ran into the barn, giggles. Out from the front of house an older gentleman with slicked back hair, long grey beard, smokes his pipe tobacco. He stands to notice that someone approached. “Can I help you?” he said.

“I don’t mean to impose. I was only curious.” she said.

He gets up from the rocking chair to proceed over to her, he puts out his hand.

“My name is Luke, it’s nice to make your acquaintance.” he said.

“I am Olivia, it’s nice to meet you too.” she said.

Olivia admires the way Luke carries himself, being well-mannered. She stares at the barn and points, not sure who the little girl is.

“Who was that little girl that just ran into the barn?” she said.

“That’s my daughter Gloria, follow me to come meet her.” he said.

They both walk over to barn, enter through a squeaky door. Gloria plays over in the corner with her dolls as they approach. Olivia bends down to her level. “You know when I was your age, I had the exact same doll.” she said.

Gloria continues to play with her dolls, gets up and moves over in the corner.

“Don’t take it personal, she has trouble talking to strangers.” he said.

“The funny thing is, she has a lot of the characteristics I had as a child.” she said.

In the corner of the barn was an inscription, engraved the name “Olivia was her.” She walks over to feel the impression of the carving, not quite sure how to respond, a baffled look ascends. Luke walks over and places his hand on her shoulder.

“There is something I must show you.” He said.

Luke grabs Olivia’s hand and pulls her out of the barn. A bright light filters the sky, covers both of them as they teleport to a cemetery. Only one marker, placed center of an open field. Behind remained a large brass gate.

“I’m not quite sure what’s going on, where am I?” she asked.

“I understand this a lot to take in, you must face the truth. I know it was hard to lose someone so close to you, but I am in a better place.” he said.

Another bright light appears before them, majestic wings expand from behind him, revealing his true identity. Olivia falls to her knees as she cries, aching in pain from what Luke revealed to her.

“See Olivia, it is I, your father.” he said.

Olivia runs over to Luke breaking down in tears, she sobs on his shoulder. Luke comforts her as he strokes his fingers through her hair. “You must move on my child. This is why I’ve brought you here. No longer shall you suffer from anymore pain.” he said.

“I can’t live without you daddy, you’re my everything. I want to stay here with you.” she said.

Luke stands before her, begins to float towards the gate. Beside him, Gloria appears clothed in all white. The gates open behind them as a loud deep voice of a man speaks “Your time is up.”

“We shall meet again my dear, when the time is right. Believe and your heart will ache no more.” he said.

A fluorescent tunnel flashes before Olivia, she jumps out of deep sleep. She lifts her hands as she stares at them, notices that she is back in her bedroom. “It was just a dream?” Over in the corner of her bedroom remained a picture frame labeled “forever and always.”