



Man in The Woods



In a particular village where the waterfalls never touched the ground, and the clouds were always in constant disagreement lived a young lady, Jemimah, who was often mistreated by her neighbours. She had the kindest soul and persona, but the Barton sisters thrived on making her life miserable.

One fateful day, as she was making her way to school, she spotted the Barton sisters from afar, and her heart sank. She decided to turn the other way and follow a narrower path, a track laced with tall trees, leaves and grass and where mud would tightly cling to her uniform; however, this did not particularly bother her because the dirt was better than a ruined day.

As she made her way through the mud carpeted route, with slight shadows and darkness, she heard the cry of a young person from the silhouettes.

"Help me! Help me!" The voice beckoned. Jemimah was startled and reluctant, but the voice did not relent.

"Help me! Please, my fire has gone out, and I do not know how to start it back up!" The voice pleaded with such pain that it moved the young woman.

As she decided it best to give the voice reason, she picked up a big wooden stick to defend herself peradventure the situation would go haywire.



"Who is there, and where are you?" Jemimah inquired as she passed through thick forage, using the voice as a guide.

"Help! Help! My fire has gone out," The voice reiterated. "I am here," it said, as a young man clutching a candle with an extinguished flame was unveiled.

"How did your fire go out?" asked the young protagonist. The hurt man replied that he had been bullied and attacked by some young women.

From the man's description of his attackers, she knew none other than the Barton girls could carry out this grievous act. Jemimah was not one for revenge, and she decided the best thing to do was to help the man to his feet, and on the journey, he was intended before calamity struck.

The man was quite frail, and she understood why he could be overwhelmed so easily. The duo began their walk without the schoolgirl caring that she would be late. Coincidentally the man's home was close to her school.

They had most of their stroll in silence, when unexpectedly, as they approached his home, his candle lit, glowing a bright green flame when he asked her, "What do you desire most?"