Proposal for the ending of the story "Fallen Leaves"

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Characters:

Amner, Irkae, Roggy and Luly



Irkae and Amner, by Giovanni Atencio

Roggy and Luly

They're two elves, very small creatures inhabitants of the depths of earth. They look at humans with a bit of mockery and a feeling of intellectual superiority, but, due to their goodness of heart, they tend to help humans when they need help.

They live in a magic island surrounded by the sea, in the terrestrial subsoil, where all the scientist expected only rocks, magmas and death. Its name is Wonderland.



The elf Luly by Giovanni Atencio

Amner's old village, Wonderland

Settings:

Wonderland

An island of short and wide towers built on low hills. The walls of the towers are made of a wonderful multi-coloured stone; as the angle of view changes, the colour of the stone also changes subtly, until it covers the entire spectrum. The towers are larger at the top than at the base, although it is difficult to notice the expansion when looking at just one. It is only as a group that the effect becomes apparent. Water pours out of the smaller towers in narrow cascades that project and refract sunlight into beautiful multi-coloured light shows that illuminate the shadows of the larger towers.

The story

Amner, in order to bring Irkae to the place where once the village was, decided to use a sort of fog that would teleport them directly to the village.

"Now I'll wrap you in a cloud which will bring you to my old village, so don't be afraid," said Amner to Irkae trying to comfort him.

"Ok, I'll trust you. Let's do this!"



Amner using her magic, by Giorgia Ripamonti

It worked, but unfortunately when they got there they didn't find any sign of Amner's village and instead they saw a construction site. The spot where once the old tree was, now was barely visible.

- "So, this is your village. Honestly, I expected something better. The only things I can see are some diggers, cranes and other machines" said Irkae to Amner with uncertainty.
- "You're wrong. These are the results of a world in progress in which society has to adapt to changes and their outcomes. This isn't my village.
- Once it was a beautiful place among nature and harmony ruled over everything. There was just one thing I couldn't put up with, the habitants didn't desire to look over the trees and see how the sky looked. For my curiosity I was criticized and some children even bullied me", replied Amner bitterly.
- "Then why are we here? What are we looking for?" asked the boy.
- "Do you see that small space there, with old and thick roots? They belonged to the Old Tree. I need your help to bring it to life again and make this place as it was before my foolish choice".

Suddenly, among those buildings in progress, a firefly appeared in front of their eyes. It was so bright that its luminosity was clearly visible even though it was a sunny day. Amner recognized it and, believing it would lead them to the cave where she once had met the black hellish cat, they followed the insect .

"Ehi, Amner! Look at that fly! It's getting burned! It's so bright!", he screamed.

"No, It's not a simple fly! It's a firefly! I knew it, I met it when I was mortal. Let's follow It, maybe it could bring us somewhere! Maybe It could bring us to the Black Cat!" said the little girl excitedly.

"Ehm, what have you just said? A black cat?", said Irkae, puzzled.

"I'll explain to you later! Quick, we can't lose sight of it!"

Then the firefly flew into a small hole in the ground and they decided to dig deeper.

"It went into this hole, but It's too tight! We can't pass!" exclaimed Irkae.

"No problem, We could use this digger - pointing at a nearby machine - to dig deeper and discover where the firefly went." suggested Amner.

They did so and then reached a door where, opening it, they were introduced to an island governed by elves.

"Oh my goodness! What's this place? Where are we? Have you ever seen something beautiful like this?" demanded the little boy, surprised.

"I don't know. But you're right, It's an astonishing view!" Said Amner amazed.

There they met two of those small creatures, Roggy and Luly.

"Look at those creatures, they are so small!", said Irkae.

"Ohi! Excuse me, who is small?!" said one of the creatures angrily.

"Humans..." added another voice sarcastically.

"Oh, I'm sorry sir. Who are you? And what's this place?" Asked Irkae.

"Welcome to Wonderland! I'm Roggy and this is my friend, Luly. Those "small" creatures you see around are elves. Thus, why are you here? You're not allowed to Wonderland, What are you looking for?" said one of the elve, both pissed and curious.

"We have to bring to life again an important tree, I need to repair the damage I caused with a stupid choice. Maybe you could help us. I would appreciate it so much!" responded Amner.

"A tree? Why is it so important to you guys?" asked Luly, perplexed.

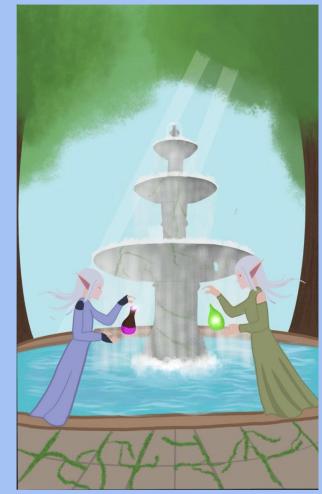
"You know, Luly, humans' issues... Anyway, we can help you. Come with us, we have something which may easily solve your problem" said Roggy

Amner and Irkae were accompanied to a fountain by the two, where they gave them a seed and a fluid, called "the fluid of life", able to confer life to everything that would absorb its essence.

"Why did you bring us to this fountain, Roggy?" Asked Amner.

"My dear, this fountain is very important to us elves as it pours a special liquid. We call It "the fluid of life" as it takes back from death every living being that has lost its life. I'll also give you this seed which will give your tree more strength!" explained Roggy.

"Thank you so much, I owe you one!" replied Amner crying. "Then good luck, my friends!" said Luly to the children



Roggy and Luly at the fountain, by Giorgia Ripamonti

Then they returned to the spot of the tree, where Amner put the seed in the ground and watered it. After a while an earthquake broke out and all the buildings in the city were destroyed. The seed began to grow unstoppably until it became the Old Tree as Amner remembered it. Around the tree, all the nature started to grow and it returned as it was before. Everything was amazing and unbelievable but, all of a sudden, Amner disappeared and Irkea was left alone before he could notice.

"Oh God, what's happening? The ground is shaking violently! Amner, look at the Old Tree! It is growing at last! Amner?! Holy sh*t! Where are you?! Please answer me! I'm scared! Amneeer?!"

In the end, the Old Tree and its nature came back, humans survived the earthquake and Irkae never knew again what the sky looked like, as it was covered again by the dominant nature and, this time, by enormous buildings too.

Moreover, he never found answers nor reasons for Amner's disappearance.



The Old Tree, by Giorgia Ripamonti

The themes

- The *harmony* due to *nature*
- Magic in its positive and negative shapes
- The adaptability of human kind
- Character's goodness of heart

CONTRIBUTIONS

- The story was written by **Stefano Paches**, with the revision and some additions by **Riccardo Trezza**.
- The drawings were made by **Giorgia Ripamonti** and **Giovanni Atencio**.
- Asia Guardamagna, Alaa Elsawi and Riccardo Trezza contributed to the Power Point creation.
- The soundtrack was realized by **Stefano Paches**.