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The Spindle Of Loss

Once upon a time in a land an enchantress ruled and watched over the kingdom. The enchantress was a kind-hearted soul who would help anyone with a flick of her hair. In a castle not too far away lived a princess named Ann. She was beautiful in different ways such as her hair was golden and fair, she wore a green dress with daises on them making a pattern and she always wore green heels with a ribbon on the front to match her dress. Ann was kind and loyal to her subjects as well but she could never speak to her true love Prince Christopher. Ann would stare at him for a long time but couldn't get enough of him. Ann's dad the king forbids her to talk to him as he was under a curse of the opposition. One day the king was walking by the river and he looked down at it. Suddenly the magic mirror appeared and gave him the curse. The curse would make him lose his memory and change it...

Ann was at her window again staring at Christopher as if he was the last drop of water on earth. The enchantress saw her so she came down from the sky and stood next to her. The enchantress wanted to help but she couldn't interfere with true love, but had a way to make her happy in a way that everyone was.

"At exactly 12 o'clock, you must go to the river of reflection and go along the river on the leaf boat and find the labyrinth, but what you want to get to is the spindle of loss. The rest will reveal in good time..." and with a flick of her hair she disappeared into the sky once again.

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The clock struck 12 and the princess set off on her journey to release the curse. The princess walked on the path of town down to the river of reflection, she saw the river sparkling, the moon shining directly at it like it was a spotlight stage, waiting for someone to perform and experience the magic. She was waiting for the leaf boat to show up, but no sight. She decided she had to make one herself. Ann walked around the trees and saw a ginormous leaf big enough to place her self on it. She picked it off the tree and let it float on the river, she climbed on the leaf and she floated down the river by the flow of the current. She was getting tired and fell asleep...

Ann woke up, and found that she was on the edge of the river and in front of a huge and winding labyrinth. Ann could here a breathing noise coming from the labyrinth, a big breath in and out. Ann froze did she dare go in...

Ann could still hear the deep breathing from the middle of the labyrinth. She gave a big sigh and one step at a time, slowly moved towards the labyrinth.

The winding path was a mystery. Where it led. Where it ended. At first Ann turned left and could hear the breathing noise much louder. She decided she didn't want to get near this thing that was making the grunting noise, so she turned right instead on the next turn. She was getting closer to the middle and could hear a rustling sound from the bush nearby.

From the bush jumped out a man, on a unicycle, with a mask in his hand. Ann stepped back in a rush and realized it was a man. More than a man. A Fool. "Hey, hey you there, yeah you girl. Standing there without a flaw!" called the fool in an extremely loud voice. "Do you know how to get out of this place?" asked Ann. "Figure out this riddle and I might be able to help: It is greater than God and more evil than the devil. The poor have it, the rich need it and if you eat it you'll die.

What is it?" the fool asked his hands crossed having a sneer on his face. Ann went through it a couple of times until she had an idea. "Is it: your parents?" "No" "The sun?" "No." Ann sighed scratching her head not acting like a princess at all this moment. "You'll never get it. Your mind is full of nothingness!" Ann stood up in just that moment. "Nothing?" "Yeah, absolutely nothing!" "Nothing" said Ann very confident in which reason the fool was not sure about. "I said nothing. The answer is nothing. Nothing. Nothing is greater than God, nothing is more evil than the devil, the poor have nothing, the rich need nothing and if you eat nothing you'll die! Is that good enough for you?" Ann said more confident than ever before. "N... no it's not. Huh... fine. Well done you solved it; maybe your head is not filled of nothingness. As your reward I'll help you get out of here." Out of the fool's pocket came out a mirror. The magic mirror that gave her father the curse, but a different type. This was a portal. She looked down at the mirror and saw the end of the labyrinth. "Go on then step in." said the fool. So she stepped inside the mirror and saw that she had left the fool and was at the end of the labyrinth.

Ann was relieved to be out of the labyrinth and to be able to continue her journey. She walked a bit further when she realized that the enchantress hadn't gave her the next instructions where to go. It was getting dark anyway, so she found an oak near the moon and sat down beside it. It was really dark now and she was feeling sleepy, but the moon was shining so bright that she couldn't fall asleep. She looked at the moon and saw a shadow on top of it. Ann walked towards the moon and found a man sitting on the moon. "Hello, sir. Are you stuck on the moon cause I could probably help you." said Ann. "No, No. I am the man of the moon. I am meant to stay on the moon and direct the stars. I know you. Your Princess Ann. The enchantress told me about you. Your trying to save your father from his curse aren't you?" asked the man on the moon. "Yes if you could help me it would be great." "The star blanket will help you get across the sky." The man on the moon touched a combination on the stars and a blanket fell from the sky down in front of her. The blanket raised and she climbed up on the blanket and it flew away. "Thank you and farewell!" cried Ann, and she flew off into the night sky on the star blanket.

Ann woke up and she heard yet another noise. "Hello, hello, hello, hello, hello." said a voice. "Hello, I am princess Ann who are you if I may ask?" asked Ann. "Hello, hello, hello, hello I am the talking bird!" In a second a bird flew from the sky down on her lap. It was tall, but thin and had white feathers almost like snow. Then suddenly the bird with it's beak pulled the princesses green dress flying as it pulled. "W-where are you taking me talking bird?" asked Ann trying to get the bird to let go. "Hello, hello, hello" said the bird once again and the bird flew higher that the princess flew up as well. Then the bird dropped Ann to the ground while the bird kept saying "Hello, hello, hello, hello" all the way back.

The talking bird left Ann in a forest of tall, tall trees. She could hardly see anything because of the trees. "Hey diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle the cow jumped over the moon. The little dog laughed to see such fun and the dish ran away with the spoon." Said a little echo from nearby. Ann walked along a bit further, getting deeper into the forest when she spotted a tiny, tiny door stuck on a tree. Ann got closer and examined it, and then she heard it again "Hey diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle the cow jumped over the moon. The little dog laughed to see such fun and the dish ran away with the spoon." It was coming from inside the little door...

Ann knocked on the door waiting for an answer, but alas no. No answer. She stood in front of the door and saw there was a hatch at the top of the door, but she could see it was broken. She was thinking of turning back when she noticed a little key hole that she had not noticed before. It was a tiny hole, not bigger than a thumb, but the markings outlined was very unusual. She memorized the shape and size of the key and she set foot into the forest to look for the

right key to fit into it. Ann walked deeper into the forest like getting closer to the middle of the labyrinth. That grunting, heavy breathing noise was back. It seems that this thing had followed her from the labyrinth to the forest. A key, a key, a key. Where could she find a key as big as her thumb? “Uhm.” Came a sound from behind the trees like a cough. Ann felt a bit frightened to go behind the trees incase anything unusual was behind it, but as her she needed help to cure her father she stepped over the bush in her green heels and went quietly behind the tree. Nothing moved, the coughing sound had gone as well. She had a quick peek at first but didn’t see anything. Then she slowly turned around and saw a small elf kind of guy, sitting on a floating carpet while holding some kind of box in his hand. The box was mysterious so Ann wanted to have a look inside. She looked closely at the man and realized that his eyes were closed so she thought he was sleeping but then “Hello... I... am... the... keeper... of... dreams... You are who...?” asked the floating man in a slow whisper. “ I am Princess Ann. Anyway sorry but your box looks, actually very interesting. Mind if I had a little peek?” “ I’ve... never... seen... anyone... so... interested... in... my... box... before... Have... a... look...” and the keeper of dreams lifted his box, turned towards Ann and slowly, but carefully placed it in her hands and in a puff of smoke he was gone, disappeared into thin air...

Ann quickly ran off again back to the tiny door. She carefully opened the lid and froze for a second. A giant beam of light was coming from the box, when it died down she saw a tiny, tiny key, just big enough to fit the door. She held it in her hands and knelt down in front of the door and put it in the keyhole. It was magic.

It had fit perfectly and the door flung open. Ann of course had to lie on the ground to see inside. Inside the little door she saw a mushroom. A single mushroom, just growing in the middle of the area. Ann was about to turn back when she yet again heard the song. “ Hey diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle the cow jumped over the moon. The little dog laughed to see such fun and the dish ran away with the spoon.” The mushroom was singing.

Ann wanted to touch the mushroom just to make sure that *it* was singing, but because the door was so tiny she couldn’t fit her hand through. She looked at the mushroom carefully, checking the stem, the dots and the colour. But then she saw it. There was something moving on top of the mushroom. It seemed like a little man. With a fiddle. Singing the song. “ Excuse me! Could you help me with something?” shouted Ann through the tiny door. The little man jumped down from the mushroom and ran towards the door with his fiddle. “ What do *you* want? And hey, do you like the music I was playing earlier?” asked the little man in a squeak. “ Yes, yes but do you know or have you heard of anything called the spindle of loss?” asked Ann to the man firmly. “ Spindle... spindle of loss... um... yep I’ve heard of it. Actually I own it. Well the wishing tree does but I own the wishing tree so it’s technically mine.” The little man told her. “ Do you mind me seeing the wishing tree and asking it for the spindle?” asked Ann. “ Ha, ha, ha your kidding right! The wishing tree can’t talk! The wishing tree has many different types of ornaments hanging on it like a Christmas tree. The ornaments are: the spell of forgetting, the eternal flame, the talisman, the charm of healing, the magic sleep, and of course the spindle of loss. If you want one, you pull it off from the tree and touch it, you’ll be back in your village and everything would be as you wish it would be.” Said the little man in a whisper so no one except her could hear. “ Right... how do I get to the wishing tree?” asked Ann. Then the little man pulled out a mirror from his pocket. “ Jump! That’s how you get there. Go on it doesn’t bite.” So Ann got nearer and in a sudden she jumped in the mirror and disappeared. Then the little man went back on top of his mushroom and gently closed the door again until the whole forest was silent. Silent as a bird.

There was a flash of light and Ann appeared in a room with no walls but a giant tree in the middle of it. The tree had no leaves but many ornaments. She looked for the spindle, but she didn’t know

which one was the right one. She looked all around the tree and then she saw an ornament with a picture of a lady and her husband. The lady was making the husband fetch a bone she threw. Ann thought this meant that she forgot that her husband was a man. Meaning the spindle of loss. Her memory was lost just like her father's. So she took it off the tree and touched the picture. In a sudden moment a beam of light surrounded her and she moved swiftly with the light.

Ann opened her eyes and saw that she was back. Standing on her balcony. The prince was still there looking better than ever. "So how was the journey?" asked someone's voice from behind her. The enchantress was standing there again. "I think someone's coming up to see you." And again she left to the sky. "Hello my child." Said another person from behind. It was her father, the king. "So... I've... I guess your always looking at the prince and I... wondered would *you* like to maybe go and speak to him. Learn a bit about him." Said her father with a grin on his face. "Oh dad your back to your self again!" shouted Ann in joy. "Wha- what do you mean. I've always been my happy self no?" asked her dad confused. "Well no. I had to go to the spindle of loss to help you recover. I really did dad!!!" said Ann looking dead serious. "Stop talking nonsense. The spindle of loss? No such thing. Oh well, why don't you go down to see the prince now. I think he could use some company." And then the king left the room. Then Ann ran to he balcony and stared at the enchantress in the sky. The enchantress winked at her and disappeared in the sky. So quickly Ann rushed down to see the prince and talk about their happily ever after. The enchantress flicked her hair for the two, just for luck and she started to giggle and she went further away in to the sky to give another wish. And everybody lived a happily ever after.