

INT FACTORY DAY

In 1974, a couple of friends work on a manufacturing line in a small factory in Ireland.

ERSKINE ALLEN, a 19 year old young man, wipes sweat from his brow. He looks up at the ancient clock on the wall. The second hand clicks one notch forward.

ERSKINE  
C'mon. C'mon already.

An AIR HORN blows as the clock strikes three.

Erskine drops his tools and removes a worn apron. He glances across the floor to LIAM O' CONNER, a husky man the same age as Erskine. Liam smiles and motions to the back of the building.

INT LOCKER ROOM DAY

Erskine slams his locker door and puts on a leather jacket as he walks toward the exit. Liam joins him. Erskine pulls out a pack of cigarettes and offers one to Liam who takes it as they walk. Erskine lights both.

LIAM  
You ready to get polluted?

ERSKINE  
Don't you know.

LIAM  
Caitlin bought me a new shirt. Wants to see me in it.

ERSKINE  
She talk to Brenna?

LIAM  
Maybe.

ERSKINE  
Well?

Erskine punches Liam in the shoulder. Liam laughs.

LIAM  
All right, okay. She said she might come.

ERSKINE

Might?

LIAM

Might as in maybe.

ERSKINE

She's got to come. I don't want to look like a doof while you and Caty snog on a couch. Might as well stay home.

LIAM

Don't you worry. She'll be there. Caitlin's buttered her up. Told her you was from a rich family, she did.

ERSKINE

She better.

LIAM

Else what?

ERSKINE

Else you'll be walking home.

LIAM

C'mon mate, just yanking your chain. See you at seven?

ERSKINE

Yah, got to clean up a bit.

Liam sniffs his arm pit.

LIAM

Me too. Hey bring your Brute. Caitlin loves it.

ERSKINE

Stuff's not cheap.

LIAM

I'll get you some ciggies.

ERSKINE

You already owe me a pack.

LIAM

I'll buy two.

## EXT APARTMENT NIGHT

The air is cold as Liam waits on the curb hunched over in a thin jacket trying to keep himself warm. He's got a paper bag with a six pack of beer. Erskine pulls up in an old car that smokes and sputters. Liam gets in.

LIAM

Bloody cold out there.

Erskine hands him a bottle of Brute cologne.

LIAM

Thanks mate. Here's our fun.

ERSKINE

Great, I got a bottle of Scotch from my old man.

LIAM

He give it to you?

Erskine glares at him as they drive away.

## INT FRONTROOM PARTY HOUSE NIGHT

People sit in small groups and chat as MUSIC plays. Everything feels cold and distant. Liam makes out with Caitlin on a couch in a corner. Erskine looks over at them and turns back to swig a beer. He's bored and he got stood up - again. A couple walks by and the woman giggles and play pats the man's shoulder.

Erskine shakes his head and downs his beer. He throws the bottle down. He walks past Liam and grabs his bottle of half finished Scotch from the table in front of the couple. Liam never notices as Erskine walks to the door in a huff.

## INT CAR NIGHT

Erskine listens to loud MUSIC and bops his head while swigging scotch. He swerves to miss an oncoming car.

ERSKINE

Bloody hell! Get in your own lane!

## EXT CAR NIGHT

The car heads out into a dark country road. There are no other cars on the road.

INT CAR NIGHT

Erskine finishes the bottle of scotch and throws it out the window. He's pretty drunk now and hums along to a softer song on the radio.

EXT CAR NIGHT

The car runs off the edge of the road then swerves to catch itself.

INT CAR NIGHT

Erskine pops his head up.

EXT CAR NIGHT

The car swerves off the road again and onto a dirt road.

INT CAR NIGHT

Erskine wakes up momentarily to guide the car back onto the dirt road but starts to doze off again.

EXT CAR NIGHT

The car rolls into a forest area and then off the road completely.

INT CAR NIGHT

The car rolls past trees with branches slapping the windshield. Erskine is incoherent and his head bounces.

EXT CAR NIGHT

The car rolls over a ridge and out of view. A CRASH echos through the trees.

The hood of the car is bent as it rests against a large tree. Steam pours from under the hood.

INT CAR NIGHT

Erskine recovers from his momentary shock. His forehead bleeds slightly.

He gathers himself together and opens the car door.

EXT CAR NIGHT

The turn signal flashes as Erskine makes it to his feet. He rubs his forehead and looks around. He looks at the front of the car.

ERSKINE

Great! Just great. I just pay it off and this.

He kicks the tire. He stumbles to the back of the car.

EXT FOREST NIGHT

Bushes close over the car tracks and block any sign of its path.

EXT CAR NIGHT

Erskine opens his pocket to take out his cigarettes but they are all crushed. He throws them to the ground and looks around.

ERSKINE

Where am I?

EXT FOREST NIGHT

Erskine pushes through thick bushes under a canopy of large trees. A bluish light glimmers beyond and goes out.

ERSKINE

Hello? Hey! Help!

Erskine pushes deeper through the trees until he comes to a clearing. Moonlight illuminates a mossy knoll in the middle of a bunch of trees.

Erskine stumbles to the middle of the clearing and feels dizzy. He sits down.

ERSKINE

So sleepy. Got to rest. Just a bit. Just a little while. Then I'll go look...

Erskine lies back on the soft mossy ground and closes his eyes.

Yellow eyes light up in the woods around the circle. Strange GIGGLES and WHISPERS echo through the night as a CELTIC song begins.

Mushrooms illuminate in a ring around Erskine and glow brighter then undulate in waves of colorful patterns.

INT FAIRY GREAT HALL

Inside a large Nordic-like hall hangs chandeliers of glowing orbs and lanterns. Everything is covered in vines and living plants. Ficus trees with their branches bent into cathedral arches create elegant walls.

Hundreds of creatures dance and eat at stumps and log tables. Musicians play a CELTIC WALTZ. Some creatures are ethereal and glow with a strange energy while others are monstrosities, hob-goblins and trolls; yet they all enjoy the party atmosphere. Smaller lights dart around and bring mead and food to waiting guests.

Erskine lies on the floor as feet dance around him. A couple trips over him and bumps into a large troll as he drinks from a wood mug. He turns and growls and throws the grog at the scattering people.

The liquid falls on Erskine, waking him. He sputters and sits up.

POV ERSKINE

Erskine sees the strange faces as they come into focus. He screams and scampers backward into the large troll.

INT FAIRY GREAT HALL

The troll looks down and gives him a horrific smile. He yells and makes it to his feet.

He runs into a group of hob-goblins as they eat. They growl at him and Erskine runs across the hall in the opposite direction.

He freaks out several times, yet the guests laugh and try to ignore him. He crawls into a corner next to a large wood throne.

The FAIRY KING leans over the arm and looks down on Erskine.

FAIRY KING

Hello.

Erskine yells and covers his head in a crouch. The King hops down off the throne. He's actually quite short with a big belly and large wooly head. He taps Erskine with his staff.

FAIRY KING

Afraid of me you are? Fear not from me.  
I'll not harm you. Are you a troll?

ERSKINE

Leave me alone!

FAIRY KING

Alone? A sad person that would be.  
You're never alone here.

ERSKINE

You're not real. This is a dream!

FAIRY KING

What is a dream?

ERSKINE

This is a dream. You're a figment of my  
imagination.

FAIRY KING

Not a figment, a fairy. This is my  
realm.

ERSKINE

Where am I?

FAIRY KING

Silly sot, you're here, with us.

ERSKINE

You're not real.

FAIRY KING

Are you daft? Did someone hit you on the  
head.

The King bonks Erskine on the head with his staff.

ERSKINE

Ouch!

Erskine rubs his head.

FAIRY KING

Was that real? Do you need more  
convincing?

The King lifts the staff to swing again. Erskine holds his arms  
up to block.

ERSKINE

Okay! Okay. You're real.

The King grunts as he sits on a stump next to Erskine.

FAIRY KING

Good, that's settled. You're not a troll. Trolls don't bellow like that. You must be human.

ERSKINE

How'd I get here?

The King laughs.

FAIRY KING

There's only one way - a fairy circle. It's our doorway to the surface world.

ERSKINE

I didn't see any. Well. I was drunk.

FAIRY KING

Good we have something in common.

The King holds up a mug and looks around.

FAIRY KING

Mead!

A glowing light SERVANT flitters over and speaks in a very high voice.

SERVANT

Your majesty?

FAIRY KING

Fill my cup and bring a mug for our young guest.

SERVANT

Yes your highness.

The king stands to his feet and offers a hand to Erskine. Erskine takes it and the king easily pulls him up.

FAIRY KING

Let me introduce you to my court.

INT FAIRY GREAT HALL

The king walks past groups of creatures that bow or toast. The king walks to a side table to a tall man wearing an ornate robe with a bent branch for a nose and very long face.

FAIRY KING

This is Advocate Garpus. He's our counselor.

GARPUS nods. An old man with wrinkles of deep crevasses that appear to be made of wood tries to stand.

FAIRY KING

Stay seated old friend.

He turns to Erskine.

FAIRY KING

This is Elder Lapis. He is the most ancient and the most wise.

ELDER LAPIS

I'm not old!

FAIRY KING

Not at all. The women love him.

The king moves to a group of young women in glowing sheer gowns. He taps one on the shoulder. MYRA turns in surprise. She has large dark eyes, pale blue skin and her hair is a bunch of thin flowering branches pulled back above her head.

MYRA

Father!

FAIRY KING

This is Princess Myra. My youngest and only un-wed daughter.

Myra bows as the King takes her hand.

ERSKINE

Pleased to meet you.

FAIRY KING

This is...

ERSKINE

Erskine...Erskine Allen. From the surface.

Myra looks up in wonder.

MYRA  
The surface?

The servant flies a pitcher over and sloshes mead.

SERVANT  
Oh, sorry.

The king raises his mug which she fills then turns to Erskine who is locked in a momentary stare with Myra. The king bops him on the back of the head. Erskine turns. The Servant gives him a mug and pours mead from the pitcher before flitting away.

MYRA  
What's it like?

ERSKINE  
It's very nice. I live in a flat - a house with central heat.

The king is a little surprised as he's completely ignored.

FAIRY KING  
Well, I guess I'll join the others. Our chef wanted me to try his new recipe for poached wartling. I'll just go over here.

The king's voice fades as he walks away. Erskine takes a drink.

ERSKINE  
This is good.

MYRA  
You like it? You should try the potato wine. It's wonderful.

ERSKINE  
From potatoes?

INT LIAM'S FLAT

Liam talks on the phone while he opens a bottle of aspirin and takes two pills. He chases it with a beer.

LIAM

No Mrs. Allen, haven't heard from Erskine. He left me stranded at the party. Had to get a ride home with Caitlin's old man. Er, father. Sorry. <beat> I have no idea. <beat> Maybe they called him into work. <beat> Then I don't know. <longer beat> I'm sure he'll turn up. <beat> I will. I'll let you know. Good-bye.

Liam hangs up the phone.

LIAM

I'll let you know after I clobber him. Twit.

INT GROTTA

A stream flows along a stone grotto. Myra and Erskine sit on a boulder as fireflies dance around them.

ERSKINE

Sleep, it's what you do when you're tired.

MYRA

We don't sleep. I've never been tired.

ERSKINE

You must sleep. Everyone sleeps.

Myra smiles and shakes her head.

MYRA

Are you tired?

ERSKINE

Well...no, I guess not. But it's got to be late.

Erskine looks at his wristwatch. The minute hand spins wildly and the hour follows quickly. He taps the glass.

ERSKINE

Huh, must have got buggered in the crash. Uh, do you know what time it is? My watch is broken.

MYRA

No, not really. We don't record time; at least not in the way I think you do. There is working, feasting, dancing, relaxing. Sometimes we have adventures and conferences when the king makes proclamations. Which is usually followed by more feasting and dancing.

ERSKINE

Ah, feasting.

MYRA

Yes! I'm hungry. Aren't you? Let's eat and then we can dance. I love to dance.

Myra pulls Erskine to his feet.

ERSKINE

I am a little hungry.

MYRA

Good, you can sit with me.

Myra leads Erskine away.

INT FAIRY GREAT HALL

MUSIC plays as Erskine and Myra dance in circles. The room blurs into colorful swirls. Myra glows brightly.

EXT ETHEREAL NIGHT

They rise into the air leaving trails of glowing footsteps. Myra's gown drops flickers of sparkle trails.

INT GREAT CAVERN

Erskine and Myra lie with their heads touching. They look at a star field which reveals to be tiny bio-luminescent creatures slowly moving across the ceiling.

Myra turns over.

MYRA

Come with me.

She gets up and they walk down a slippery tunnel of wet rock. A dim glow illuminates a room beyond.

INT GLOWING LAKE

A huge underground lake rolls out before them. Stalactites are perfectly reflected in the mirror still water.

MYRA

What do you think?

ERSKINE

It's beautiful.

Myra takes her finger and touches the edge near the shore. Circular ripples glow with bio-luminescent light and slowly work across the expanse of water.

Myra carefully enters the water. With each movement, glowing blue sparkles radiate from her touch. She helps Erskine in with her.

They effortlessly float in the water.

MYRA

You make me very happy. I've never known someone like you.

ERSKINE

I, I feel the same. This place is wonderful and you - you're perfect.

MYRA

We could stay like this forever.

ERSKINE

Forever? What do you mean?

MYRA

You and I could marry and stay here together. You would make me the happiest woman in the world.

ERSKINE

But Myra. I enjoy being here. And I appreciate all the hospitality but I've got to go back. My friends and family, they're wondering where I am.

Myra puts her arms around Erskine.

MYRA

We can be your friends and family.

ERSKINE  
I don't think so.

Erskine turns and wades back to shore. He wrings out his clothes as Myra approaches perfectly dry.

MYRA  
But you don't understand.

ERSKINE  
I understand perfectly. You've enchanted me and now you want me to stay.

MYRA  
No, that's not it. You can't leave.

ERSKINE  
Why not?

MYRA  
Because you can't. It's not possible. Once you come here, you can't leave.

ERSKINE  
We'll see. I can go back through the same door I came in.

MYRA  
Only the king can open the door.

ERSKINE  
Then I'll go talk to the king.

Erskine walks away. Myra lowers her hand and slowly follow downtrodden.

INT FAIRY GREAT HALL

The king stands at his throne as people gather around to listen.

FAIRY KING  
In anticipation of the upcoming wedding,  
I proclaim a feast in honor of the new  
couple.

CHEERS from those gathered.

## FAIRY KING

As a special treat, I am opening a  
bottle of our ancestral single highland  
malt scotch.

The king motions to the side as Elder Lapis, walking with a  
cane, brings a large dusty bottle and gives it to the king.

The king pulls cobwebs off and wipes dust off a faded label. He  
pulls a wax covered cork off with his teeth. The bottle  
BREATHES. The king takes a swig from the bottle and stands for a  
moment. His mustache tips twist up. He exhales.

## FAIRY KING

That is good scotch.

He hands the bottle to Elder Lapis who takes a swig and then  
passes it around to more CHEERS. The MUSIC starts again.

Erskine enters and the king sees him.

## FAIRY KING

Ah, here's our honored guest now!

The king holds his hands up for everyone to quiet down.

## FAIRY KING

My good lad, this celebration is  
dedicated to you. Give me the bottle.  
This is our most cherished ancestral  
relic. Please enjoy.

Erskine ignores the gesture and looks at the king.

## ERSKINE

I don't want it.

People GASP.

## ERSKINE

I want to go home.

The king looks around and tries to laugh under the suddenly  
heavy mood.

## FAIRY KING

Surely you jest. Take a drink. It's very  
good.

## ERSKINE

I told you. I want to go home. I don't  
want anymore of this witchcraft.

ADVOCATE GARPUS

Young man. Hold your tongue.

The king is shocked and at a loss for words.

FAIRY KING

My son. You can't go back. It's not possible.

ERSKINE

Myra told me you could send me back.

Myra enters.

FAIRY KING

Myra why did you-

ERSKINE

Can you send me back or not?

The king looks at Myra who stares at the ground.

FAIRY KING

It's not that simple.

ERSKINE

I thought so. This is all a lie.  
Everything here is a lie. You act nice  
but it's all just a ruse to capture  
people from the surface.

Advocate Garpus grows in height and branches push up from his robe into a threatening posture.

ADVOCATE GARPUS

I've had enough of this insolence.

Erskine stares nose to nose with Advocate Garpus as he towers over him.

FAIRY KING

Advocate.

Advocate Garpus turns to look at the king. The king motions to calm down. Advocate turns back to Erskine and SNORTS. He shrinks back down to normal size.

Erskine turns and walks away. He brushes past Myra who reaches out a hand. She looks back to the king.

FAIRY KING

Why daughter? You know I can't approve of this.

MYRA

It is my choice father. I love him.

FAIRY KING

But.

Myra turns and walks quietly away. The room is silent as they all watch the king.

FAIRY KING

Well, I'm sure things will work out. Let us...let us continue the festivities.

The king hands the bottle to Elder Lapis.

FAIRY KING

Here.

The king walks from his platform and behind a curtain of vines that move out of the way.

ADVOCATE GARPUS

You heard the king. Play music! Continue with the merriment!

The band slowly starts up again. People mumble to each other.

INT SMALL PORTICO

Erskine tosses pebbles against a wall as the king approaches. He sits next to Erskine.

FAIRY KING

I spoke with Myra. She wants to send you back.

ERSKINE

So?

FAIRY KING

So, I will honor her wish. You may return.

Erskine looks up and smiles.

ERSKINE

Great! When can I leave?

FAIRY KING

When you are ready.

INT GROTTO

The king stands with Myra, Elder Lapis and Advocate Garpus. Erskine stands next to the stream on a boulder.

ERSKINE

So what do I do?

FAIRY KING

When you see the fairy ring, step into it and you will return to the surface.

ERSKINE

Good. Let's go.

Myra steps forward and kisses Erskine on the cheek.

MYRA

Goodbye.

Erskine, a little surprised holds his hand to where she kissed. A blue glow dissapates under his fingers.

ERSKINE

Well goodbye everyone.

ADVOCATE GARPUS

I must protest sir.

The king looks at the advocate and shakes his head. The king holds up his staff and it glows. Energy flows from Erskine to the staff and the king points the tip at the ground. A ring of mushrooms grow and illuminate.

Erskine steps into the circle and swirls of blue energy engulf him. He watches as Myra cries on the king's shoulder. He vanishes.

EXT FOREST DAY

In a ring of mushrooms, Erskine appears in a blue flash. He steadies himself and then steps out of the ring.

Brambles and thick brush have encroached the area and the trees are much larger. He pushes through deep undergrowth and runs into a metal object. He removes some branches and finds his car. But the windows are covered in dirt and debris. The fenders have rusted away and the paint is faded.

He pulls at a stuck door which pops open. A family of racoons hiss and run past him. The interior of the car is ruined. Wire frames are exposed where the seats used to be. He opens the glove compartment and picks up some papers which crumble to dust in his hand.

ERSKINE

What is this?

EXT ROAD

Erskine makes his way to a paved road. Modern cars whiz by and he stands astonished at the traffic. He flags down a car which stops. A FARMER sits in the driver's seat. Erskine gets in.

FARMER

Where you heading?

ERSKINE

Back to town.

FARMER

Good, so am I. Got to do some shopping.

They pull away.

INT CAR DAY

The farmer keeps glancing over at the way Erskine is dressed.

FARMER

You come from a fancy dress party?

ERSKINE

Me? No. Why?

FARMER

Those clothes. Just thought. Ah, heck - fashion trends always come back around. I should've kept my old clothes. Why just the other day I saw a pair of ripped jeans selling for \$100 pounds.

The farmer's phone rings. Erskine jumps. The farmer pulls it out and answers it.

FARMER

Hello? Johnny! How you doing?

Erskine stares in amazement.

EXT APARTMENT DAY

Erskine steps out of the car and walks up to his apartment. Kids on hoverboards roll by. He steps out of the way.

INT APARTMENT HALLWAY

Erskine tries his keys in the door but it won't open. A MAN opens the door.

MAN

Can I help you?

Erskine looks past and sees a family at a dinner table.

ERSKINE

Is this apartment 306?

MAN

Yes, do I know you?

ERSKINE

No, no. I must have the wrong apartment.  
Sorry to bother you.

The man glares at Erskine and slams the door.

EXT LIAM'S APARTMENT

Erskine gets out of another car.

ERSKINE

Thank you!

The car pulls away. Erskine walks up to the door and knocks. A 50 something Liam opens the door.

LIAM

Yes?

ERSKINE

Oh, I'm sorry I was looking for someone.

LIAM

Erskine?

ERSKINE

Yes?

LIAM  
Is that you?

ERSKINE  
Liam? What happend to you?

LIAM  
I'm old. Look at you! You haven't aged a day since I last saw you.

CAITLIN  
Who is it honey?

LIAM  
Caty, come quick. You won't believe this.

Caitlin wipes her hands from the dishes.

LIAM  
It's Erskine.

CAITLIN  
Erskine? Really?

Liam steps to the side to let her see and she nearly faints.

INT LIAM'S FLAT

Erskine sits on a chair and drinks a hot tea while Caitlin and Liam listen to his story.

ERSKINE  
They live underground and they're always having a party. And there was Myra, the king's daughter. She looks human in some ways but is a fairy. She was beautiful.

Caitlin and Liam stare at each other and nod slowly.

ERSKINE  
I've got to go see mom and let her know I'm okay.

LIAM  
Erskine, your mother. She passed away two years ago.

ERSKINE  
How long have I been gone?

LIAM

42 years.

Erskine pauses to let his thoughts settle. He won't let himself believe that this much time has passed. He stands and walks to the door.

ERSKINE

Thank you for the tea. I've got to go.

LIAM

I can take you somewhere.

ERSKINE

No thanks. I've got to figure this out.

LIAM

Erskine.

ERSKINE

Thank you Caitlin.

Erskine walks out the door and closes it. Liam and Caitlin watch out the window as Erskine walks away.

LIAM

I don't understand. He's fruity. But he hasn't aged at all.

EXT FACTORY DAY

Erskine sits on the curb in the rain outside a wall with a new building complex going in. The old factory where he used to work sits behind with boarded up windows.

EXT ALLEY NIGHT

Erskine pulls up a cardboard box and tries to cover his head from the rain. A POLICEMAN walks up and kicks him.

POLICEMAN

You've got to move along. You can't sleep here.

ERSKINE

Huh?

POLICEMAN

You heard me. Get up and get going.

Erskine grabs his cardboard box and wanders away.

EXT STREET DAY

Erskine walks down a busy road carrying his soggy piece of cardboard. He stops and turns toward the woods as if he hears something. A FAINT VOICE sings to him.

EXT FOREST DAY

He pushes through the woods and finds his old car. He continues until he comes to the mossy clearing. He sits down in the middle and looks around.

ERSKINE

I want to go back! This isn't my world anymore. I want to go back. Myra, I want to go back!

Erskine lies down as it starts to rain again. He covers himself with the cardboard.

EXT FOREST NIGHT

Mushrooms grow up around Erskine and illuminate.

INT GROTTA

Erskine lies sleeping with the cardboard over his head. A thin wrinkled hand comes in and removes it. A very old Myra smiles.

MYRA

Erskine.

Erskine wakes and looks around.

ERSKINE

Am I back?

MYRA

Yes, my love.

ERSKINE

Myra? What happend to you?

Myra smiles and helps him to his feet.

MYRA

When the door opens from this side, only fairy folk can go through. Unless they give their life force to another.

Erskine thinks for a moment.

ERSKINE

You gave your life force to me...when  
you kissed me.

Erskine holds his hand to his cheek. Myra nods and smiles.

MYRA

And now I am like you. But my life is  
now connected to your world. To your  
time.

ERSKINE

So you're getting old?

MYRA

Yes. Very quickly.

Erskine takes Myra in his arms.

ERSKINE

Why didn't you tell me? I'm so sorry. I  
came back for you. I was lost in my  
world. Everything has changed. I want to  
stay here with you.

MYRA

I'm glad you came back.

They sit together in the grotto as the fireflies dance around.  
The stream trickles along with blue bio-luminescent swirls.

THE END