

old gods

by

Abigail Johnson

FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Gravestones sit quietly in a peaceful field. Near the oldest and most neglected sits a YOUNG GIRL about five years old in a white dress, her hair long and unkempt, tangled with flowers and dry leaves. She is ethereal, almost translucent. She holds a WHITE ROSE in her hands and SINGS a simple melody as she absentmindedly strokes the gravestone.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY GATES - DAY

A FUNERAL PROCESSION enters the cemetery gates. The young girl perks up, and slips behind a tree to watch. At the rear end of the procession is a YOUNG BOY, dressed in black from head to toe. There is a black rose in his lapel. He makes eye contact with the girl as they slowly march past, and they nod at each other, almost imperceptibly. Nobody notices this.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The burial has just been completed, and a PASTOR is standing to give a few brief words. The young girl and boy stand hand-in-hand at the back of the mourners.

PASTOR

... our of dust we are born, and  
into dust shall we return...

As the pastor speaks, the young girl and boy weave through the mourners and approach an ELDERLY WOMAN in a long dress and sweater, who stands up at the front of the crowd. Nobody notices her or the two children. They smile, and take her hands. She trembles.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Is this... did...?

The young girl shakes her head and pats the old woman's hand. She gestures towards the Elderly Woman's gravestone, and begins to walk towards it. The old woman follows, but then hesitates.

ELDERLY WOMAN (CONT'D)

Where are we going? Why isn't my  
family coming with me?

Young girl smiles and does not answer. Young boy takes the old woman by the arm gently. She resists at first, but then she walks alongside him. When they arrive at the young girl's gravestone, a beautiful bed appears to grow out of the ground.

The young girl walks to the old woman and begins to remove her sweater. The old woman suddenly screams and tears away from them; as she runs, she snatches the sweater the young girl had taken away from her. The boy and girl do not chase her, but watch as she runs further and further away.

The elderly woman collapses into the ground and sobs into the sweater. The young boy and girl wait silently. After a long moment, the elderly woman stands, looks around, and sighs.

ELDERLY WOMAN (CONT'D)

It's all the same. Just a loop -  
the cobwebs, the fading grass...

Her voice trails off, and she slowly walks back to the pair. They lead her to the bed, and once again the young girl begins to remove her clothing until she wears nothing but a thin slip.

The children stand near the foot of the bed. The elderly woman sighs, closes her eyes, and then sits on the bed. Suddenly she is not an old woman anymore, but a young girl, about the same age as the other two children. She stands and embraces them.

FADE OUT: