

Little Red Apples

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A Short Based On PROJECT WHITE

2016

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EXT. FRENCH FORREST - SUNSET

It's 1940. The sun is beginning to set creating shadows and silhouettes of trees and bushes against the painted sky.

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

The sky becomes blood red as the sun sets in the west. Little Red Riding Hood begins to run faster as she hears the growls of the wolf trailing behind her.

ÉPINE, a fifteen-year-old, runs between trees and over rocks. She wears a shabby dress, a coat that seems to be getting too small for her, flat shoes strapped at the ankle, while carrying a basket still filled with goods. Her red-brown hair is up in a chignon, but is slowly coming out as she runs through the forest.

She looks back behind her and sees DIETRICH, a Nazi officer, racing behind her. He carries a gun as he tries to catch up to her.

DIETRICH

Hault!

Leaves crackle under their feet as they continue to run. Birds scatter from trees.

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

All of sudden two more wolves jump out behind the trees. Fortunately she sees them before it is too late and changes directions running deeper into the dense forest.

All of a sudden two more Nazi officers, GOBLER and VOGEL, come from straight ahead.

Épine sees them and turns into a different direction in order not to run into them.

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

The wolves howl long and loud into the darkening sky. The girl knows that means more will follow. She must run faster!

Vogel grabs a FLAIR GUN and sends it into the sky.

DIETRICH

(to Gobler and Vogel in German)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIETRICH (cont'd)

You two, go that way. I'll go this way. We'll meet in the middle and catch her if not in the forest than at the house.

She looks back towards them and becomes annoyed at the red streak created against the dark sky. Épine, not paying attention at where she is running, trips on a rock and falls head first down a rocky hill. She skids on the fallen leaves and eventually rolls to a stop.

She gets up fast not bothering to check her hands or knees and continues running brushing off her clothes as she runs.

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

Unfortunately, these wolves aren't just mean, blood-thirsty creatures: they are also clever, cunning, and smart.

Dietrich continues to follow Épine and starts shooting at her. The first bullet hits a tree next to her making her jump with a scream. The other two shoot towards her also. They're trying to make her go in the direction they want: towards the house.

She knows that. Fortunately she has a plan of her own. This is her forrest.

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

Fortunately for Little Red, she has a pretty good head on her own two shoulders. And she knows the forest better than some cruel wolves.

Dietrich fires at her again hitting a rock making bits of it shatter into the wind.

Épine runs with determination in a direction. She jumps over a WOLF TRAP covered with leaves.

Dietrich, unfortunately for him, doesn't see the trap and runs straight into it. It snaps shut on his leg. He howls in pain and in retaliation he shoots what he has left at Épine grazing her arm in the process. She gnashes her teeth in pain and grabs at her arm, but continues to run.

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

She soon sees the cottage. She will be safe!

(CONTINUED)

All of a sudden a small little cottage is in view. She looks at it in hope. Épine looks around, but there is no one following her. Her speed picks up a bit.

She stops right before she opens the door. Once again she looks around, but her face scrunches as if noticing something isn't right. She presses her ear to the door.

Nothing.

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)
Or so she thinks.

Her hand goes to her PISTOL that is in the inside pocket of her coat. Her hand is calm even though she looks nervous but determined.

She takes one more look around.

Again nothing.

Épine opens the door slowly.

ÉPINE
(quietly)
Grand-mère?

She walks in.

INT. COTTAGE - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM - Épine walks slowly through the front door and into a sitting area. It is unnervingly quiet.

She doesn't place the basket or gun down. She walks quietly, avoiding slats of board which she knows will creak.

A loud crash occurs and her head turns towards the kitchen. She continues to crawl there.

KITCHEN - Épine approaches cautiously to the kitchen doorway and she looks in.

Gobler is holding a knife to the throat of an older woman, mid-seventies, who is wearing an old worn dress, an apron, and flour on her hands. It is GRAND-MÈRE.

Épine walks in with the gun pointed at Gobler.

ÉPINE

Let her go.

GOBLER

I'd lower that gun of yours if I were you. Don't want someone getting hurt, do we?

ÉPINE

The only one I plan on hurting is dressed as a coward.

GOBLER

Don't get cocky. It might result in my hand accidentally slipping.

He moves his hand like he is going to cut...

ÉPINE

Don't!

He stops.

ÉPINE (CONT.)

What do you want?

VOGEL

Oh, just two spies.

Vogel comes from behind Épine and grabs her. She gasps, the pistol goes off and hits a flour container. She then drops the pistol.

(CONTINUED)

ÉPINE

I don't know what you're talking
about. We're bakers.

All of a sudden Dietrich walks in. He tries not to limp, but fails. His leg trails some blood behind him. He is furious and in pain. He is angry and mad crazy.

DIETRICH

Of course you are. (he winces) Just
a sweet little old lady and her
spirited granddaughter baking apple
pies and delivering them to their
loyal customers.

He laughs maniacally taking a limping step forward.

DIETRICH (CONT.)

How quaint.

He pulls out a knife, grabs a red apple, he leans against a wall, and starts peeling it.

Épine tries to pull away from Vogel with no luck.

The apple pieces fall to the floor. He takes a bite of the peeled apple and limps over to Épine. He takes the side of the knife, places it underneath her chin, and makes her look up to him.

She frowns in return.

DIETRICH (CONT.)

Unfortunately for you, my dear, (he
winces again) I can see right
through that little scheme of
yours.

He smiles at her wickedly. He raises the knife and--

SCARLET (O.S.)

WAIT!

INT. COTTAGE - DAY

It's the 1990s.

An older Épine, wrinkled and grayed with age, sits in a rocking chair at a fireplace and is surrounded by her granddaughter, SCARLETT, and her grandson, JOHN. Scarlett looks to be about six-years-old and is wearing a nightgown. John is about three-years-old and is wearing a t-shirt, shorts, and one sock.

John is hiding behind a stuffed wolf.

OLDER ÉPINE

What's wrong?

SCARLETT

Little Red Riding Hood can't die!
She's the good guy, remember?
That's not how the story goes!

OLDER ÉPINE

Well, this is a new story.

Épine shakes her head in sad remorse. Scarlett "humphs" and crosses her arms over her chest. John watches the two.

SCARLETT

Well, why does the mean old wolf
want to gobble her up anyways?

OLDER ÉPINE

Well, my dear, I'll have to explain
a bit for that one.

MONTAGE

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

Little Red has been helping her grandmother create pies and she delivers them to the good people of the village. But the selfish wolves want the pies for themselves. At first all is well and she keeps the pies to the townspeople...

--Épine and her grandmother chopping apples, red skin still on them

--They make the apples into pies

--Épine walks through the woods and into the village

--Dietrich, Gobler, and Vogel watch her and the other locals

--Épine delivers pies to a few locals

--She delivers pies to a fruit vendor and her family

--The vendor opens the pie: the apples have red skins on them

--The vendor gives her back some green apples from a crate

--Épine walks back to the cottage

--She gives the apples to her grandmother

--Épine reads by candlelight

--the two make apple pies, this time with the green apples

--Épine walks through the woods and into the village

--Dietrich stops her and looks into her basket

--She delivers pies to some families

--She delivers a pie to the fruit vendor

--The fruit vendor opens the pie: green apples this time

--The vendor is now at her stall; a woman, MARIE JAUJARD, with a young girl, MARVAL JAUJARD, of about eight, walks up to buy some apples from her; the vendor gives her green apples

(CONTINUED)

--At night, the vendor comes to the back of a house and takes a painting from Marie, Marval watches her curiously and quietly

--The fruit vendor takes the art and places it into a crate labeled "les pommes"

--Épine arrives with a cart and places the box of "apples" (the art) into it

--Dietrich, Gobler, and Vogel stop her and look into the crate; all they see are apples and they let her go

--Épine gives her grandmother the crate; they open it, take out the top tray filled with apples and hay and find the artwork from earlier

 OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)
 But something unfortunate occurs...

--Épine arrives and gives a pie filled with green-skinned apples to the fruit vendor

--The fruit vendor is waiting at her table

--Marie and Marval run through the crowd, but CAIN, a Nazi officer, shoots at them; the two fall; Marie dies, but Marval is grazed by a bullet on her arm; she cries and clings to her mother, but notices a piece of art that looks like an artillery shell with equations on it in different splatters of paint; Cain picks it up and grins wickedly

--The vendor runs away but Cain tells his two men to follow her; they do and one shoots; she falls: dead

--Épine walks into town again carrying her basket of pies; Dietrich watches her from over a newspaper

--She goes and knocks on the door, but, instead of the fruit vendor, Gobler opens the door and Vogel comes from behind the shadows; she realizes the mission has been caught and so she dodges between the three and runs into the forest; Gobler and Vogel chase after her

--Dietrich pulls out and looks at his knife before taking off

INT. COTTAGE - NIGHT

Dietrich pulls the knife off Épine and looks into it.

DIETRICH

Yes. Just a poor little girl and
her poor granny who make pies for
the locals.

He laughs maniacally, wincing at the end. Épine once again
struggles to get away. He turns back to her.

DIETRICH (CONT.)

So we can either do this the easy
way or hard way. I ask the
questions. You answer them.

ÉPINE

And if we don't?

DIETRICH

Then I hope Granny here knows how
to take blood out of your clothes.

Épine scowls at him. He scowls back at her and then smiles.

DIETRICH (CONT.)

First question: where are they?

ÉPINE

That's specific.

Dietrich lifts the blade again to her throat.

DIETRICH

I know art has been trickling out
since the day the Fuhrer drove his
army into Paris. I know you know
where it has been sneaking off to.
And I want to know so I won't ask
again: where did the art go?

A beat.

GRAND-MÈRE

Épine.

She looks to her grandmother.

GRAND-MÈRE (CONT.)

(in French)

I love you. Run fast.

(CONTINUED)

ÉPINE

Non!

GRAND-MÈRE

Keep the secret safe with you as I
will with me.

Épine looks at her grandmother desperately. Her eyes welling
up with tears.

He looks at his knife.

DIETRICH

Good. Looks like the old bat
finally told her granddaughter
something useful.

Épine turns to face him and scowls a second. Then she spits
in his face. He howls in anger.

He raises the knife higher.

DIETRICH (CONT.)

You little--

He isn't able to finish. Épine's grandmother takes a grenade
out of Gobler's holster and takes the pin out.

GOBLER

Dietrich!

Dietrich looks at Gobler and her grandmother. He notices the
grenade and reaches towards it, releasing his gaze
from Épine.

Épine headbutts Vogel and he lets go.

Gobler beheads her grandmother with his knife.

Épine dives out of the kitchen as BANG! The grenade goes
off.

LIVING ROOM -- Épine has crawled into a fetal position to
protect herself.

The entire kitchen is on fire. With no movement coming from
inside.

She gets up and runs out the door.

EXT. FRENCH FORREST - NIGHT

She runs out of the cottage and just in time for there being a second explosion from the gas stove. It makes her fall forward.

Épine turns around and looks at the cottage: there is nothing left and what is left is on fire or charred and smoking.

She gets up and runs away as fast as she can.

SCARLETT (O.S.)

So she gets away from the wolves?

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

Yes, she gets away from the wolves.
She's a bit scratched up, but she
is alive.

SCARLETT (O.S.)

What happens next, Grand-mère?

EXT. FRENCH FORREST - DAY

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

Well, Little Red Riding Hood goes
and looks for a new place to live.

Épine walks through the forest again and sees a group of five men and women SOLDIERS not much older than her in black outfits with a gold, silver, and bronze braided arm band. There is a British flag displayed on a tent. She knows they're safe.

She slinks through the trees towards them.

SCARLETT (O.S.)

Does she find it?

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

Oh, yes. She actually finds a group
of friendly dwarves who take her
in.

SCARLETT (O.S.)

Oh, that's good! Maybe they'll meet
Snow White!

OLDER ÉPINE (O.S.)

Maybe. Just maybe.

The group of soldiers take her in and give her water and a blanket. They all sit around a fire. They smile talking and joking with one another. One of them, a black SOLDIER, gives her his green beret. Épine smiles as she knows she is safe.

FADE TO BLACK.