

Crossed Swords

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A "Grimm" fan film

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EXT. WILLAMETTE PARK - EARLY EVENING

We see FIONA VALENTINE walking through the park. She looks like she's just been doing a workout -- a bit tired, a bit exhilarated.

Notably, she has two katanas strapped to her back in the classic criss-cross fashion.

As she passes a wooded area, a figure steps out in front of her. It's WALTER FRIDAY -- a man with a rather leonine face and a nervous attitude.

FIONA

Look... I don't want any trouble.

WALTER

I finally figured out what you are... what you really are.

FIONA

Now, settle down, Walter--

WALTER

The time for that is over!

Furiously angry, but horribly frightened nonetheless, he raises his fists in something resembling a boxing stance.

WALTER

Put 'em up! Put 'em up!

She draws her swords.

FIONA

Walter, now's not the time--

He shuffles forward and tries to attack, but he's no good at fighting. She counters him, knocking him to the ground. She tries to make a sort of coup de grace, but he rolls out of the way and stumbles to his feet.

WALTER

Your kind killed my family. We've been at war for ages! And now look what you've done to me -- you and that old necklace! I'm stuck with my face like this! It's worse than death! And to think I used to be able to change back and forth just like that!

On his last word, he snaps his fingers. Suddenly confident and courageous, he assumes a truly aggressive combat stance.

(CONTINUED)

Fiona immediately recognizes that he's gone from a high-strung coward lashing out to something truly dangerous.

He steps forward and she tries to attack in self-defense. He easily avoids her blows and takes one of her swords. They fight a bit more, perhaps a full minute's worth, with Walter using his sword right-handed. As she adjusts to his new strength, she starts to get the upper hand.

At one point they're separate enough to stand at guard against each other.

WALTER

Think you're getting the upper hand?

FIONA

(Acknowledging the obvious.)
It does seem like it.

WALTER

What if I know something you don't?

FIONA

Like what?

WALTER

I'm left-handed.

He switches the sword from his right hand to his left and presses in. At first, they seem evenly matched.

In another part of the wooded area, we see two figures, a man (whom we'll call the WATCHER) and a woman (MINA). We don't see their faces quite yet. Mina starts to move forward to intervene in the fight, but the Watcher gestures -- gently -- for her to stay put.

Back at the fight, Walter gets the superior position. At last he knocks Fiona over, and her sword falls from her hand, just out of reach.

WALTER

I don't expect that you're left-handed too.

FIONA

No, I'm a rightie.

WALTER

Fine. Then don't worry. I'll make it quick. It'll be over just like that!

He snaps his fingers again -- and instantly returns to his initial self. She sees her advantage, grabs her sword, gets up, and presses in. He shows almost no skill at all with the sword, and she quickly disarms him. He tries to flail around barehanded, but she soon knocks him down.

Now his only response is to cower there and cover his head.

FIONA

Really, Walter, you should be ashamed of yourself.

WALTER

Oh, I am. I constantly am. But look at me! What can I do? All the others... they have no respect for me to begin with, and now I can't even go out in public -- not even in Corvallis! I mean, I tried, and look at what that bear-woman did to me!

He shows his teeth, many of which are no longer there. Fiona puts her sword at rest, but keeps her distance in case Walter decides to get violent again.

FIONA

Look, Walter, I really am sorry about that. I had no idea that old necklace had any kind of magic charm. How could I?

Now the Watcher steps forward, with Mina right behind. He steps into the light just enough to see his features, though she stays in the shadows for now.

WATCHER

How, indeed?

At the sound of these words, Fiona startles, and prepares to defend herself with her sword.

WATCHER

Relax, Fiona. We're not here to fight.

Fiona stands down her sword again.

FIONA

How do you know who I am?

As the Watcher talks, she goes to fetch her other sword, and then replaces them both on her back.

WATCHER

I've been keeping my eye on you for a little while now. I wanted to see how well you'd do on your own. And I must say that you're working out quite well.

FIONA

You're... you're like me?

WATCHER

Yes. I'll tell you all about it in a little bit. But to get back to that necklace, there's no way you could have known. I've been doing this for a few years now, and I didn't know. And take a look at what happened.

He gestures to Mina, and she steps into the light. We now see that her face is something bear-like. She looks quite embarrassed and humiliated.

WALTER

Mina?

MINA

Hi, Walter. Fancy this.

WATCHER

So if I could make the same mistake with my years of experience, there's no reason a beginner like you wouldn't do the same. And by the way, Mina here has something she wants to say. Right?

Mina is torn between embarrassment over having to say this, and recognizing that it's the right thing to do.

MINA

Uh... Right. Walter, I'm... well, I'm sorry. I apologize. I never should have been as rough with you as I was. I guess I really should stay away from the booze.

WATCHER

And?

MINA

Oh, right. I'll... well, I'll help you pay for your teeth, too.

(CONTINUED)

WALTER

That's good of you, Mina, but I can't go to any dentist, remember?

WATCHER

Yeah, about that. I know an apothecary up in Portland who can set both of you to rights. I've already called her, and she's preparing the antidote as we speak.

WALTER

Seriously?

WATCHER

No kidding. I can even give you both a ride up there, and you'll be back to your old selves by morning.

WALTER

(Relieved.)

Ohhhh!

He jumps up and hugs the Watcher. Tightly.

WATCHER

(Squeezing it out.)

Okay, Mr. Friday. You can let go now.

He does.

WALTER

Sorry. And you can call me Walter.

(To Mina.)

You're serious about the teeth thing?

MINA

Absolutely. I mean, I guess it's the right thing to do, since I caused the problem. Maybe we can even be friends.

WALTER

That would be good.

(To Fiona.)

I'm sorry to you too, Miss Valentine.

FIONA

Well... Nobody actually got hurt, except maybe you, so I guess I'll let it pass.

(CONTINUED)

WALTER
Thank you!

FIONA
And you can call me Fiona.

WALTER
Okay.
(To the Watcher.)
Where are you parked?

WATCHER
Up by Fiona's apartment.

FIONA
Well, then, let's go. And you can
explain about this "what we are"
thing along the way.

WATCHER
Sure thing.

They all start along the direction Fiona was going at the
start.

WATCHER
You can ride along to Portland if
you want to. There's a lot to tell.

FIONA
Okay. So how did this start?

WATCHER
It's actually been going on for
centuries, but things really sort
of came together in the early
1800s...

FADE OUT

TITLE CARD

"The truest victory is not the one in which your enemy is
defeated, but the one in which he becomes your friend."

THE END