

Written by

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EXT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

A real-life gingerbread house, tucked away in the woods.

INT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Very homey. Whimsical music plays throughout the house.

A lively, playful baker, THE GINGERBREAD MAN (28), mixes gingerbread cookie batter. He <u>looks</u> human.

His apron reads "Love Baking."

A peppy HENCHWOMAN (25) with blonde hair stands guard at the doorway, watching him.

GINGERBREAD MAN (to self) Molasses, brown sugar, flour, ground ginger... What's missing?

He taps his lip, thinking. He lights up, getting an idea.

GINGERBREAD MAN (CONT'D) Of course!

### HALLWAY

Gingerbread Man hurries to the basement door, types a code on a keypad. Monstrous screams and roars come from the basement.

# KITCHEN

Gingerbread Man dances in with a case of test tubes filled with glowing liquid.

GINGERBREAD MAN The special ingredient.

HENCHWOMAN What is that!?

GINGERBREAD MAN My very own invention! Mindcontrol, um... I haven't named it yet.

HENCHWOMAN Mind control?

# GINGERBREAD MAN Yes! I'm taking over the world!

She stares at the liquid, worried. He adds it to the batter.

They hear the front door shut. A huge, quiet HENCHMAN (35) marches into the kitchen, stands guard where henchwoman stood. She checks her watch.

HENCHWOMAN My shift's over, Gingerbread Man! I'll see you tomorrow! Hope the mind-control thing works out!

The henchwoman spins around to leave --

GINGERBREAD MAN Wait! I need all hands on deck! I have a lot of cookies to ship!

HENCHWOMAN Are you shipping all of them today?

GINGERBREAD MAN What!? No way! I'm gonna bake millions of cookies! Today's just the first shipment!

Gingerbread Man adds more liquid to the batter.

HENCHWOMAN (plays sad) I'm sorry, Gingerbread Man. I have to go. My mom needs me. She's sick.

Gingerbread Man wrinkles his face, angered.

GINGERBREAD MAN

Go.

The henchwoman smiles, rushes out.

EXT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

The henchwoman hops into a car, panicked. She rolls up the windows, touches her ear.

HENCHWOMAN (to earpiece) This is Agent Cindy. A285.

Yes, the Cinderella.

HENCHWOMAN (CONT'D) I have time-sensitive intel. It's about the Gingerbread Man.

INT. D.F.T. HEADQUARTERS - LOBBY - DAY

A mash-up of real life and fantasy. Whimsical drones monitor the busy lobby. A giant from "Jack and the Beanstalk" patrols, dressed as an agent.

Federal agents process fairy tale criminals (classic and new characters). Classic characters like:

-- <u>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</u>. The Dwarfs attack the agent that processes Snow White. She makes a run for it. Long, blonde hair wraps her up. It belongs to Agent Rapunzel.

-- <u>The Three Little Pigs</u>. Mini giants. One's hyper, one's lazy, and one's a savage.

-- The Frog Prince. Slimy humanoid covered in royal jewelry.

-- <u>Sleeping Beauty</u>. Asleep in a vertical, magically bed that takes her everywhere. A glass shield covers the front.

The "D.F.T." logo is displayed proudly behind the front desk.

SOLO'S OFFICE

The "D.F.T." logo shows on a computer screen.

A fierce lone agent -- the best D.F.T. agent -- named SOLO (30) opens a blank document on the computer.

Nametag: "AGENT SOLO"

She types a report, fingers racing across the keys.

Her fingers brake. A big, strange scar runs along her hand.

Solo stares off into space, takes out a cell phone.

She looks at a teenage girl's photo on her phone.

In Solo's mind: She sees the outline of a shadow (the Big Bad Wolf). A girl screams out.

Solo shuts her eyes, grieved. A tear rolls down her cheek. Someone knocks. Solo opens her eyes, quickly wipes the tear.

A handsome, humorous agent, JACK (30), stands outside the door, smiling. He's the action hero type with a big heart.

#### Nametag: "AGENT JACK"

He holds a worn book and fancy envelope.

JACK Morning, Solo!

SOLO Who are you?

JACK Agent Jack. I transferred from D.L.M. Department of Legendary Monsters.

She eyes the book and envelope.

SOLO Are those for the mission?

JACK Yep! Can I come in?

She nods. Jack rushes in, shuts the door. He hands her the book and envelope. "*D.F.T.*" is on the envelope. She pulls out a folded CARD.

CARD (high-pitch man voice) Greetings, Agent Solo. Agent Jack. Agent Solo, this is your partner.

Jack smiles at Solo. She glares. She sits the card down, flips through the book ("The Gingerbread Man").

CARD (CONT'D) The Gingerbread Man plans to ship mind-control cookies around the world. His first shipment is today. His location will be sent to your phones. Catch the Gingerbread Man so he can't ship the cookies. He <u>must</u> be apprehended. And remember, no one can find out the Gingerbread Man exists. Self-destruct in three, two, one.

The card self-destructs. Smoke comes out it.

SOLO (to Jack) I'm doing this mission myself.

#### HALLWAY

Solo storms out her office with the book. Jack rushes out behind her.

JACK

Hey, Solo!

Solo ignores Jack. He sees a tiny, geeky agent, BIG (19), who's in a big rush. She's friendly and harmless. <u>Sometimes</u>. Big totes a huge paper stack.

JACK (CONT'D) Excuse me, Agent um...

Jack reads Big's nametag: "AGENT BIG"

JACK (CONT'D) Agent Big?

Big checks her watch.

BIG Yes. "Big" for short. I'm in a rush. Please make it fast.

JACK I'm Solo's partner.

BIG

Really?

JACK Yeah, but I don't think she wants me as her partner. Did she act like this with other partners?

BIG She never had a partner.

JACK She's a lone wolf?

BIG

Yes. Bye.

Big scurries away down the hall.

### DRESSING ROOM

Quirky room with a big motivation picture that reads "They deserve a fairy-tale ending."

Solo wears a delivery uniform. She laces up her boots, puts on a delivery hat.

SOLO (V.O.) I work for the Department of Fairy Tales.

A regular black pen, two fantasy grenades, two pairs of black handcuffs, normal black glasses, and a small bag of mixed candy sit on a table.

> SOLO (V.O.) (CONT'D) It's my job to pursue fairy tale criminals. The ones who were corrupted by Scarlet the Terrible.

A label on the back of the candy bag reads: "DO NOT EAT. Memory loss."

SOLO (V.O.) (CONT'D) It's also my job to make sure you don't know fairy tale characters are real.

### HALLWAY

Solo exits the room, wearing the glasses. Jack waits for her, wearing a delivery uniform and normal glasses.

He smiles. She sighs, stomps off. He jogs after her.

INT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Wall-to-wall cookie boxes.

### KITCHEN

Stacks of cookie boxes. Gingerbread Man and the huge, quiet henchman box gingerbread cookies.

EXT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Solo drives a delivery van on a long path leading to the house. Jack sits up front.

JACK What's your favorite fairy tale character?

SOLO Any as long as they're not criminals.

JACK Mine is Jack from "Jack and the Beanstalk." He's the reason I picked my codename... I heard you caught the Three Little Pigs.

Solo nods.

JACK (CONT'D) Are they little pigs?

SOLO No. They're mini giants.

JACK You took down all three pigs? By yourself?

SOLO

Twice.

INT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gingerbread Man sees the van through an open window, panics.

GINGERBREAD MAN They're early!

EXT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Solo and Jack step out the van.

JACK Check out this house.

Solo glances at the house, not impressed.

JACK (CONT'D) Let's do this, partner.

SOLO Not your partner. His smile drops. She pushes the side of her glasses, and he pushes the side of his.

**GLASSES:** They see inside the house. Gingerbread Man boxes cookies frantic. The henchman grabs full boxes.

# JACK That's a big henchman.

The henchman exits the house with boxes.

### HENCHMAN

One van?

SOLO More are coming.

Solo reaches for the boxes. The henchman sees the scar on her hand. He steps back, guarding the boxes.

### HENCHMAN

Solo?

### JACK

Ahh, man.

INT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gingerbread Man stuffs cookies into boxes.

HENCHMAN (O.S.) (through open window) Boss, it's Solo!

Solo's name makes Gingerbread Man narrow his eyes and growl.

EXT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Solo flashes a federal badge wallet at the henchman.

SOLO Department of Fairy Tales. You're under arrest.

Gingerbread Man rushes out the house, brakes beside the henchman, and takes a look at Solo.

GINGERBREAD MAN Hey, Solo. Want a cookie?

Solo flashes her badge again.

SOLO

Department of Fairy Tales. You're under arrest, Gingerbread Man.

GINGERBREAD MAN

Ha!

Gingerbread Man notices Jack.

GINGERBREAD MAN (CONT'D) Who are you?

JACK

Her partner.

Solo frowns.

GINGERBREAD MAN

Partner!?

Jack nods. Solo takes out one of her handcuffs. Gingerbread Man backs up. The henchman stays with him.

GINGERBREAD MAN (CONT'D) "Run, run. As fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the Gingerbread Man."

JACK (to Solo) I got a plan.

SOLO I'm doing it. Stand back.

JACK He's too fast. We both need to --

SOLO (stern) Stand back.

Gingerbread Man watches the agents, entertained.

JACK (to Solo, stern) No.

SOLO Stand back or else.

JACK Or else what? Solo draws her pen, pushes the side. The pen becomes a metal bo staff. She hits Jack with the staff, and he freezes in place. His eyes move.

Solo glares at Gingerbread Man.

GINGERBREAD MAN (to henchman) Load the van.

The henchman rushes the boxes he holds to the van.

GINGERBREAD MAN (CONT'D) (to Solo) "Run, run. As fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the Gingerbread Man."

Solo charges at Gingerbread Man, swings her staff. Misses. He's gone. She looks around.

> GINGERBREAD MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D) Over here!

Gingerbread Man stands far from Solo, waving. He ran, too fast to see.

Solo sprints to Gingerbread Man, swings. Misses. She looks around. He's far away.

The freeze starts to wear off Jack. He moves slow.

JACK I have. A plan. Solo.

Solo runs to Jack, hits him with her staff. He freezes. His eyes move.

Solo races to Gingerbread Man. He runs.

The henchman bursts out the house with boxes of cookies, runs them to the van.

Solo chases Gingerbread Man. He laughs. She speeds up, reaches out to grab him. Misses. She looks around. He's far from her.

GINGERBREAD MAN "Run, run. As fast as you can. You can't catch me." Sing it with me. "I'm the Gingerbread Man."

Solo draws a grenade, activates it. Far away, Gingerbread Man holds up the grenade. She looks at her hand. No grenade.

Gingerbread Man throws the grenade away. It explodes, making a cloud of glitter.

Solo activates her 2nd grenade. Gingerbread Man waves the grenade, standing far away. He throws it, and it explodes. Glitter.

Solo rushes Gingerbread Man, swings her staff. He watches her from the porch.

The freeze starts to wear off Jack. He moves slow.

The henchman shoves boxes of cookies into the van.

Solo runs to the porch. Gingerbread Man is gone. He dances in the yard. She glares at him, catching her breath.

GINGERBREAD MAN (CONT'D)

Tired?

Solo starts to charge at Gingerbread Man -- Jack grabs her.

# JACK

Together.

Solo snatches away from Jack, swings her staff a few times. He dodges.

JACK (CONT'D) We're a team!

#### SOLO

Solo.

The henchman hurries out the house with boxes of cookies.

GINGERBREAD MAN That's enough boxes! Get my recipe!

The henchman runs inside with the boxes.

# JACK

If we don't work together, he's gonna ship those cookies and probably make more! And who doesn't love gingerbread cookies!?

Gingerbread Man lets out a villainous laugh. Muahahaha! Solo glares at him, thinking.

SOLO (to Jack) What's the... (MORE) SOLO (CONT'D) (struggles to say) What's the plan?

The henchman runs out the house with a tablet.

GINGERBREAD MAN Start the van. (stern) Don't lose my recipe.

The henchman nods, barrels to the van.

Gingerbread Man faces Solo and Jack. Jack draws a pen, pushes the side. It becomes a metal bo staff.

JACK (to Solo) Ready?

Solo doesn't want to answer.

JACK (CONT'D)

Ready?

Solo readies her staff.

SOLO

Yes.

The henchman cranks on the van. Jack sprints to Gingerbread Man, swings his staff. Misses. Gingerbread Man watches Jack from afar.

GINGERBREAD MAN "Run, run. As fast as you can"...

Jack charges at Gingerbread Man, staff drawn back. Jack swings. Misses. Gingerbread Man watches him from far away.

GINGERBREAD MAN (CONT'D) "You can't catch me. I'm --

JACK The Gingerbread Man! I know!

Jack throws down his staff.

JACK (CONT'D) Forget this!

GINGERBREAD MAN Don't feel bad. Everyone gives up! Gingerbread Man turns around. Solo aims her staff, an inch from touching him.

GINGERBREAD MAN (to henchman) Get my batter gun!

Solo strikes Gingerbread Man with her staff. He freezes. His eyes move.

The henchman jumps out the van, stampedes toward the house. Solo cuts him off, swings her staff. He ducks.

The henchman boulders toward the house. Solo chases.

The henchman runs inside. Solo reaches the steps. He marches out with a big fantasy cannon. She backs up.

The henchman fires gingerbread cookie batter. It hits Solo's left arm. She smells the batter. Jack runs up, sees it.

JACK What's that!?

### SOLO

Cookie batter.

The henchman marches off the porch, firing batter. Solo and Jack duck.

Solo's left arm dangles to the side.

SOLO (CONT'D) (to Jack) I can't feel my arm.

The henchman shoots batter. Solo and Jack dodge it.

The freeze starts to wear off Gingerbread Man. He moves slow.

GINGERBREAD MAN Keep. Shooting.

Jack runs to Gingerbread Man, hits him with the staff. Gingerbread Man freezes. His eyes move.

The henchman fires at Solo. She sidesteps the batter. Jacks runs to her.

JACK We gotta take him down. SOLO Run circles around him.

Jack nods. The henchman fires. Solo and Jack split up, run to the henchman.

Solo and Jack circle the henchman. He turns in circles, not knowing who to shoot.

The agents rush the henchman. He throws down the gun, and his fists grow freakishly huge. The agents brake.

JACK What's up with his hands!?

SOLO I don't know.

The henchman marches toward them to fight, punching his palm. Jack leans into Solo to whisper.

JACK I'll distract him.

Solo nods. Jack puts up a fight guard, does silly boxing footwork. The henchman swings his freaky fists. Jack ducks and dodges.

While the henchman is distracted, Solo strikes him with her staff. He freezes, but his eyes move.

Solo lifts her left arm, having use of it again. She moves her fingers, testing them out. Jack throws up his hand to high five her.

> JACK (CONT'D) High five!

SOLO I don't high five.

Jack puts his hand down, a little disappointed.

The freeze starts to wear off Gingerbread Man. He moves slow. Solo marches toward him, ready to hit him with her staff.

> GINGERBREAD MAN I'm sick of you.

Solo reaches Gingerbread Man, draws back to whack him -- he bursts out the freeze.

# GINGERBREAD MAN (CONT'D) Both of you!

Solo backs up to a safe distance. Gingerbread Man transforms.

# JACK (to Solo) What now?

Solo pulls an Excalibur type sword out her pocket. Jack takes a fantasy axe out his pocket.

Gingerbread Man finishes transforming. He's a monstrous, 7ft tall cookie. Sticky frosting drips off him.

GINGERBREAD MAN (deep voice) "Run, run. As fast as you can. I'll catch you. I'm the Gingerbread Man."

JACK (to Solo) You hungry all of a sudden?

Gingerbread Man roars, charges at the agents. Solo and Jack's weapons ignite.

JACK (CONT'D)

Legs?

SOLO

Legs.

They wait until Gingerbread Man gets close, and they chop off his legs.

Gingerbread Man falls face-first to the ground. He rolls around, screaming and crying. His burnt legs sizzle.

EXT. GINGERBREAD MAN'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY (LATER)

Solo and Jack put the cuffed criminals in the van. Gingerbread Man is back in human form. He has legs again.

The agents see a BOY (12) with a bike. He marvels at them. Solo and Jack look at each other, worried.

JACK Um, hey, kid. Whatcha doing here?

The boy holds up a fundraiser book.

BOY

Fundraiser.

SOLO What did you see?

BOY Everything.

The boy looks to the van.

BOY (CONT'D) Is that the Gingerbread Man!? From the story!?

Solo takes out the bag of candy. She sighs, holds out the bag.

SOLO Do you want candy?

The boy rushes over, fingers through the mix of candy. He eats one, then looks around, confused.

BOY Where am I?

INT. D.F.T. HEADQUARTERS - SOLO'S OFFICE - DAY

Solo sits at the desk numb, reading an old text from "Julia": "Meet u at 2:30! Thanks 4 all ur help!" and smileys.

Solo clicks on the girl's photo.

In Solo's mind: She sees the outline of a shadow (the Big Bad Wolf). The girl screams.

Solo stares at the photo. Someone knocks.

Jack and the tiny agent named Big wait outside the door. Solo nods, and they enter. Jack shuts the door.

SOLO You're on this mission, Big?

BIG

Yes.

Big hands Solo a fancy envelope. "D.F.T." on it. Jack shows Solo a worn book: "Little Red Riding Hood"

In Solo's mind: She sees the outline of a shadow. The Big Bad Wolf steps into the light. A massive, vile monster with glowing eyes and huge, whimsical claws.

Big Bad Wolf scratches the screen.

END