

The Magic Forest

by Jennifer Nofsinger

Everybody has a special place, especially as a child. My cousins and I had a magic forest. My cousins live on a huge farm surrounded by woods. However, only one small part of these forests held our magic spot.

When walking to the Magic Forest, you have to go through the yard of the big white house, under a rusty barbed-wire fence, and out into the huge pastures. These pastures are surrounded by large hills, so you are in a small valley between these hills. From the pastures, which are full of green grass and wildflowers in the spring, you go about twenty more feet, and into the woods. There is a special opening between the trees, almost as though they are inviting you to go into this magical spot.

When you step through the trees, all you can see is green. The whole ground is covered in grass that is long and bright green. There are rocks the size of kitchen tables that are completely covered in soft, fuzzy, green moss. There is antique machinery, that hasn't been used in years, that is also covered in the moss. The moss makes everything look as soft as cotton. Next, you start to notice the wildflowers and other plants. The flowers are pink, purple, white, and many other colors. Some are as large as your hand, and some are the size of a pencil eraser. The huge mushrooms catch your attention next. There are many different kinds. The mushrooms grow all over the place, on tree trunks, on the rocks, and everywhere else possible.

Then, you start to notice the light. It filters through the outreaching tree branches to the forest floor. It leaves shifting patterns on the floor due to the ever-moving leaves on the branches, alternately making everything either bright or hidden in shadows. The light gives everything a constantly moving effect, as though nothing is ever standing still.

While looking up at the light, you notice that the branches over-head are very close together. They are woven together almost like fabric. The branches form one huge canopy over the top of this magical spot.

After noticing the branches, you begin to hear the sounds of forest. First, in the silence, you hear the wind whispering through the trees. This is also when you notice the slight breeze on your cheeks. The leaves, rustling against each other, create a calming sound.

Then, you begin to hear the sounds in the background. You can hear the cows mooing. They sound as though they are carrying on a very intricate and important conversation. You can hear the different pitches and volumes of their voices. It is almost as though you can understand them.

Next, you hear the birds singing in the trees. Some songs are high-pitched and fast-paced, while others are slow and mournful. When you lean back your head and look into the trees, you can see these birds. Several of them are whippoorwills. This is because many of the trees around the forest are willow trees. So, you can hear their song, which sounds very sad and lonely. You see a rainbow of colors, from red to blue. They are also in many various sizes.

Then you begin to hear the leaves and grass, on the ground, rustling. This is the sound of all the forest creatures scampering away into their hiding places. However, if you wait a while, without moving, you will begin to hear them rustling around again. If your imagination is working, it sounds as though there are fairies or elves trying to hide from you, instead of the animals that live there. You may even get lucky enough to catch a peek of a rabbit or deer. Often, however, you find yourself waiting for a mystical being, instead of a real animal. It is still a neat experience to see a wild animal up close, even if you do end up wishing that it would have been an elf or a fairy.

While standing in the Magic Forest, several different aromas surround you. The most distinct is the sweet smell of freshly cut hay. Then, you begin to notice the earthy smell coming from the ground. Finally, you can pick out the scent of the wildflowers that are growing all around you. Most of the flowers are sweet smelling, but some have their own unique scent.

While wandering around the magical forest, you may begin to touch things. First, you might feel the tree trunks. They are rough and hard. Then, you may decide to see what the mushrooms feel like. They feel dry and spongy. Next would come the huge rocks; these are smooth, cold, and moist. While exploring the rocks, you may feel the moss that grows thick on them. This moss is very soft and fuzzy. It is also cold and moist. Finally, you may touch the rusted metal of the old machinery. The metal feels cold. It seems as though if you touched it, it would crumble into tiny pieces. However, when you actually do touch it, you can feel that it is still strong.

After you notice most of the details around you, you begin to feel as if you are in a fairy tale. The scenery in the Magic Forest allows you to pretend that you are in a place where you could actually see an elf or fairy. It is all part of the magic of this place.

The surroundings, sense of adventure, and our imaginations always drew us to this part of the woods. It made us feel like we were no longer in the real world, and our imaginations tended to run free. It made for a great experience that we will never forget. This can be a magical place for anyone, as long as the imagination is being used.

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