

LEAVES

by

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FADE IN:

INT LOCATION #1 EVENING KITCHEN ANY HOUSE

Sitting at (any) kitchen table, alone, a husband (miles away) is holding a sealed envelope at arms length elbows on table. 'To my Valentine XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX' He looks up at a picture of his wife on the wall, the picture shows her sitting on a picnic blanket beneath a large tree, laughing (red lipstick on) into the camera. Suddenly the sound of young, happy, squealing voices break his daydream, he jumps up and puts the card into a drawer closes it and then jogs upstairs to the bathroom.

INT LOCATION #2 EVENING LARGE BATHROOM ANY HOUSE

Two young children in pajamas are messing about washing each others faces. Boisterously, he grabs excited children and wrestles them to the floor, kids squeal in delight and as they wrestle, voice over comes in, the audience hears...

VOICE NARRATES OFF SCREEN (POEM)

THE Wind Blew Wild today
In the Homestead
Boisterous
Wrestling Leaves
Until along came the rain,

Suddenly dad stops, He jesters to listen; silence, then footsteps are heard running up the stairs Dad makes a mock horror face! Then all quickly stand up and try to assemble themselves! As they do the audience hears...

VOICE NARRATES OFF SCREEN (POEM CONTS...)

Pitter patter pitter patter
Job to do
Vitalizing,

Dad sees someone enter the room, but the audience doesn't, he looks toward the children buttoning up/straightening their pajamas. Arms in air he backs off in mock surrender as he does so audience hears...

VOICE NARRATES OFF SCREEN (POEM CONTS...)

She chased the wind
Who lowered sail;

Father hides surge of emotion by feigning defeat with a royal bow which he then changes into a grand wave as he gestures to children to finish washing faces...

He watches Children nudging/messing/chatting/giggling... They stop and look upwards with screwed up faces and closed eyes. He sees ghost silhouette of his wife rubbing a flannel over each child's face and neck then in turn, she holds each child's head gently in her hands and holds for a moment then follows warmly by a loving kiss on each child's forehead ...

VOICE NARRATES SOFTLY OFF SCREEN CONT

Then she kissed the leaves.

Who glistened in the sunshine

Sunshine light shines on Kids as then they turn from sink scrubbing faces with a towel and, with an eager eye on dad, excited, they throw towels on floor and edge their way out of the bathroom, Dad feigns to attack them like a huge bear roaring. Happy screaming smiley faces.

Dad 'misses' and the kids make a break for it! As they are heard squealing, obviously happy, still general messing about, scene finishes with camera turning back to the sink and focuses on a damp wrinkled card beside a bottle of aftershave which is still boxed and wrapped in cellophane, high up in the bathroom cabinet, camera zooms in on a red lipstick kiss on the envelope, scene fades still hearing sound of happy squealing kids and dad roaring.

FADE OUT

The End