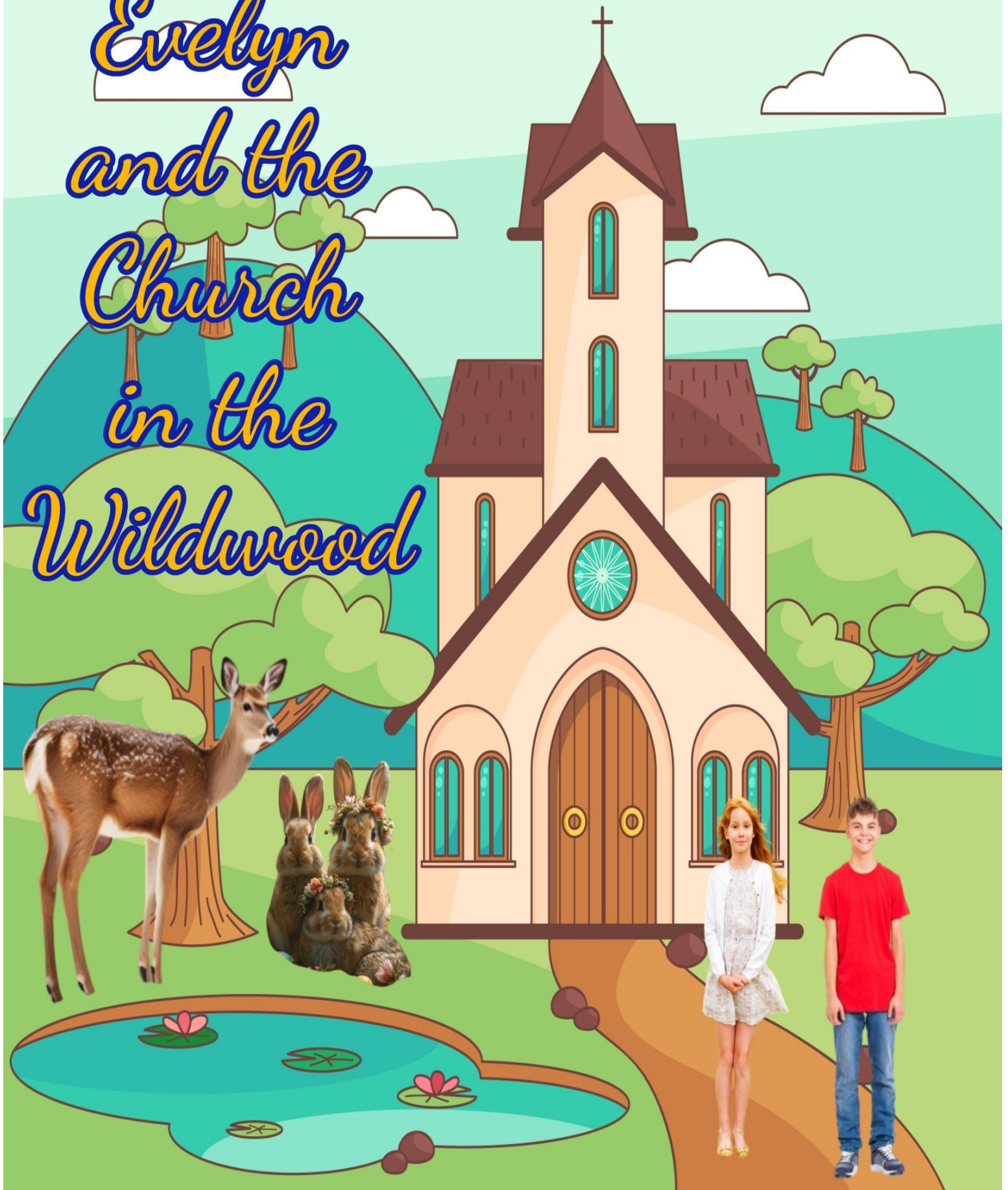


Evelyn and the Church in the Wildwood

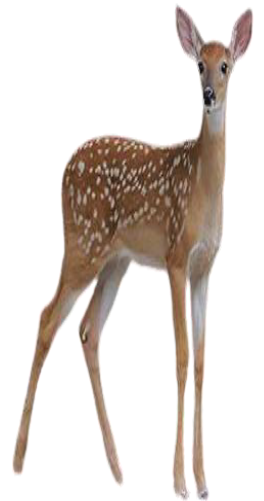


Evelyn and the Church Part 1: Evelyn and the Church in the Wildwood

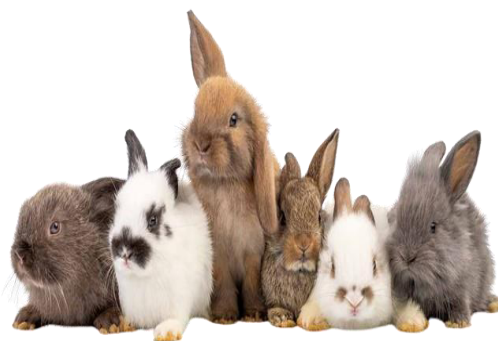
A twelve-year-old girl named Evelyn is sitting alone on the grass at a park. It is April, the flowers have started growing back, and it is a little windy out. She is wearing a dress with a colorful flower pattern and a cardigan. She feels a little chilly but continues to sit and watch the clouds float by. There is a forest in part of the park with many animals who sometimes come to the park to enjoy the flowers. There are some; Deer, Birds, Rabbits, Foxes, Snails, and many more.



As Evelyn stared at the clouds to see what shapes she could find, she wondered if any new friends would come by. "I wonder if I will make any new friends today?" Evelyn said to herself, "I see a Rabbit and a Deer in those clouds but that's not enough!" She exclaimed with a loud huff. Then she heard a small noise and was curious to see, that some Rabbits and Deer were coming toward her with glee. "Oh, look at those creatures," she said to herself as she noticed them hesitating to join her sweet self, "Don't be afraid deer ones," she said sweetly, "my name is Evelyn and I'm delighted to greet thee." The Rabbit and Deer came closer with care and realized they had no reason to be scared, for Evelyn you see, was just a nice girl sitting alone who wanted some friends to have of her own. "You are all such cute creatures!" Evelyn shrieked, as she began to pet them all from their heads to their feet. "I'm so glad you all noticed me, and we can all be friends, I hope our new friendship never comes to an end!" Evelyn said with care and excitement galore.



In a quick jolt one of the Deer looked up, as if they got scared of something that was hiding just huffed. "What is it dear one?" Evelyn asked the young Deer, "did you hear something scary coming through the wind?" The Deer nodded its head as if it understood, "let me listen," Evelyn said as she stood. As Evelyn stood up and listened with ease, she heard church bells ringing through the soft breeze, "oh my dear friends there is nothing to fear, why you just heard church bells ringing quite clear" Evelyn said joyfully, "let's go and look for the church friends, come on and follow me." The animals stayed in the grass as Evelyn started walking, then she turned around and talked to them gently. "It is ok my friends, this adventure will be fun! Come join me, we have only just begun!" The animals hesitated for a minute and then they jumped up and joined her to be with their new friend. "Great! Now we can look for that church!" Evelyn said.



Evelyn and her woodland friends were off, to see if they could find the church they had heard through the soft wind.

They traveled through thick and thin, from the park, through the forest, and more, so far, their legs were sore. They walked and walked and walk some more, until they found the church they heard once before,

"Oh, my Deer and Rabbits, we have found it at last! We finally found the church in the wildwood, what a blast!" Evelyn said with lots of excitement, then they heard the church bells ring along to her delightment. As Evelyn jumped for joy that they found this beautiful church, the animals jumped along with her, then Evelyn said with a smile, "let's go inside and stay here for a while." The animals were hesitant to join her inside, "I'm sure it's ok for you guys to come and you have to hide, this is a place for everyone you see, it's a place for you and a place for me." Evelyn said in a reassuring tone, the animals then joined her into the unknown.



As they walked into the church, they stared at the beautiful stained-glass windows that had been made with care. As they walked through the church they heard a small noise, coming from two big doors that sounded like some voices singing, “Do you all hear that?” Evelyn asked the animals, “I think I hear people singing.” The animals listened and nodded their heads, “let’s go find that noise and join it” Evelyn said.

They walked through the hallways until they found the two big doors, then Evelyn opened them up to see what was behind them and then, she saw a choir singing and heard

the director say, “again and again.” “Wonderful music everyone, I love it!” Evelyn said as she and the animals walked into the sanctuary to sit, “I’m sorry for barging in and bringing animals with me, but we heard the church bells from afar and wanted to see them ringing” Evelyn said with feeling.

The choir director stopped directing for a second and turned around to see Evelyn with the Rabbits and Deer standing in front of the sanctuary doors. “That’s alright” the director said, “we love company, and every creature should be able to enjoy the joys of music!” “My name is Levi and I’m the choir director at this church” Levi continued.

“Hi Levi, I’m Evelyn!” Evelyn replied.

“Ok everyone, let’s take a break” Levi says as he turns around to face the choir.

While the choir took a break, Levi and Evelyn went outside to chat. “So, what brings you and these beautiful creatures to church today?” Levi asks.

“Well, I was looking at the clouds to see different shapes, then these nice Rabbits and Deer came up to me and one of the Deer heard the bells from this church, so we came to find it!” Evelyn explained to Levi with excitement.

“That sounds fun! I personally love it here at the church in the wildwood” Levi said.

“What song is the choir working on? Is it “The Church in the Wildwood,” or a different song?” Evelyn asked.

“It is “The Church in the Wildwood,” because we love that song and love that we get to sing it in a church in the wildwood” Levi said with excitement.

“Can I join you guys?” Evelyn asked.



“Sure, you can Evelyn, let’s go back inside” Levi said, as he started leading the way back inside.

Back inside the sanctuary, “I can’t wait to sing with everyone, and I had no idea that this church was in this forest” Evelyn said to Levi.

“This church has been here for many years and is even magical” Levi said.

“Really? Cool!” Evelyn said, “how is it magical?” she asked.

“Only people with very strong imaginations and people who love all creatures and nature very much can find this church” Levi said.

“Is the magic in the wildwood?” Evelyn asked.

“Yes, it is, you are very smart. How old are you?” Levi asked.

“I’m twelve” Evelyn said, “how old are you?” she asked.

“I am your age, which is part of the magic. People who come here stay young forever” Levi said.

“It’s like we’re in Neverland” Evelyn said.

“Yep, it’s like Neverland and Brigadoon” Levi said.

“Ok everyone, we have a new member of the choir joining us today” Levi says to the choir.

“Hi everyone, I’m Evelyn” Evelyn says to the rest of the choir.

“Now, let’s get back to singing!” Levi says as the rest of the choir stands up and walks back to the front steps of the sanctuary to start singing again and everyone starts singing “The Church in the Wildwood.”

“That was great everyone! Excellent job!” Levi says with excitement.

“Are we going to work on more songs? Or is the choir only working on one song right now?” Evelyn asks.

“We are also working on “The Lily of the Valley,” do you know that song?” Levi asks.

“Yes, I know a lot of hymns” Evelyn says.

“Great! Ok everyone, let us work on “The Lily of the Valley.” And a one and a two” Levi says.

As Evelyn and the choir sing, the Rabbits and Deer come back into the sanctuary to listen to the music. While all the singing is going on, the Rabbits and Deer start dancing up and down the aisle in between the pews. Evelyn notices and stops singing for a second.

“Why did you stop singing Evelyn?” Levi asks while gesturing to the rest of the choir to stop. As the choir stops singing, the animals stop dancing.

“I am sorry Levi, I did not mean to stop suddenly. I just saw the animals dancing and wanted to join them, but it looks like they stopped since we stopped singing” Evelyn said, explaining why she stopped singing.

“You don’t need to apologize Evelyn and you don’t need to stop singing if you ever see someone or some creature dancing” Levi said.

“I don’t?” Evelyn asked in a confused voice.

“Of course not! If you see someone or some creature dancing, then you should dance along with them!” Levi explained.

“Oh ok, then let’s all dance and sing with the animals!” Evelyn said as she walked to be with the Rabbits and Deer.

“Y’all heard her! Let us all dance and sing with the animals!” Levi repeated.

The rest of the choir and Levi joined Evelyn to be with the animals and they all started singing hymns again and everyone and creature danced along to the music.

“This is so much fun!” Evelyn says to Levi while the rest of the choir continued singing.

“Yeah, it is, I don’t want it to stop!” Levi replied.

“Me neither!” Evelyn said.

Everyone and every creature sang and danced throughout the night and had lots of fun. After a long time of singing and dancing, everyone took a few minutes to rest.

"I'm pooped, do y'all do this all the time?" Evelyn asked Levi.

"Well, not like this" Levi replied, "there aren't usually different animals around and we do not typically dance this much" he continued.

"I would love to do this all the time with some breaks here and there of course!" Evelyn said.

"It sure is fun to invite the forest creatures in and have a dance party instead of just singing the hymns" Levi said, "I should have thought of that sooner" he continued.

"I think it would also be fun to spend some of the time outside by the pond in the wildwood and not just spend all the time inside the church" Evelyn said.

"That also sounds like a good idea that we should start doing, I don't know why I hadn't thought of those things before" Levi said.

"I love churches like this one, but I think it would be cool to spend some time outside and sometime inside" Evelyn said.

"We could start doing that now!" Levi said.

"Do you mean like right now?" Evelyn asked.

"No, not necessarily right now. I just mean in general" Levi said.

"I think that's a great idea!" Evelyn said, "so, do you all sleep in this church? Or do you just come for choir?" she asks.

"We actually do sleep in this church" Levi said.

"Did you each find it on your own and liked it so much that you wanted to stay?" Evelyn asked.

"Pretty much yeah" Levi said, "it's like in Peter Pan when the lost boys end up in Neverland" he continued.

“So, if you’re the choir director, does that make you like the Peter Pan of this place?”

Evelyn asked.

“Well, kinda, I am like the Peter Pan of this place, but people can leave whenever they want to” Levi replied.

“I don’t want to, I was just curious” Evelyn said.

“That is usually the case with people when they find this place, they tend to want to stay because they did not have the best life before and this is such a fun place to stay in” Levi said.

“So, are all these kids’ orphans or something? Or were they just very lonely” Evelyn asked, “I’m asking because you said that people don’t grow up and you said that they did not have the best lives before coming here” she continued.

“They are not all orphans, but some of them are. It is more like they were lonely and met creatures in the forest like how you came with the Rabbits and Deer” Levi said.

“I came because I was lonely and I’m an orphan” Evelyn said hesitating a little.

“I’m sorry, I’m an orphan too and I was also lonely” Levi said.

“I’m sorry” Evelyn said, “did you find this place with the help of forest creatures like me?” she asked.

“Not exactly, it wasn’t animals that heard the bells ringing before I did, I heard them ringing through the trees in the wind and followed the sound to find this place” Levi said, “When I got here, there was no one around. I loved it and decided to stay” he continued.

“I love it too and I’m going to stay!” Evelyn said, “Were you alone for a long time after you got here?” she asked.

“Not too long, maybe a night or two before the next person found it here and then people slowly started coming” Levi said.

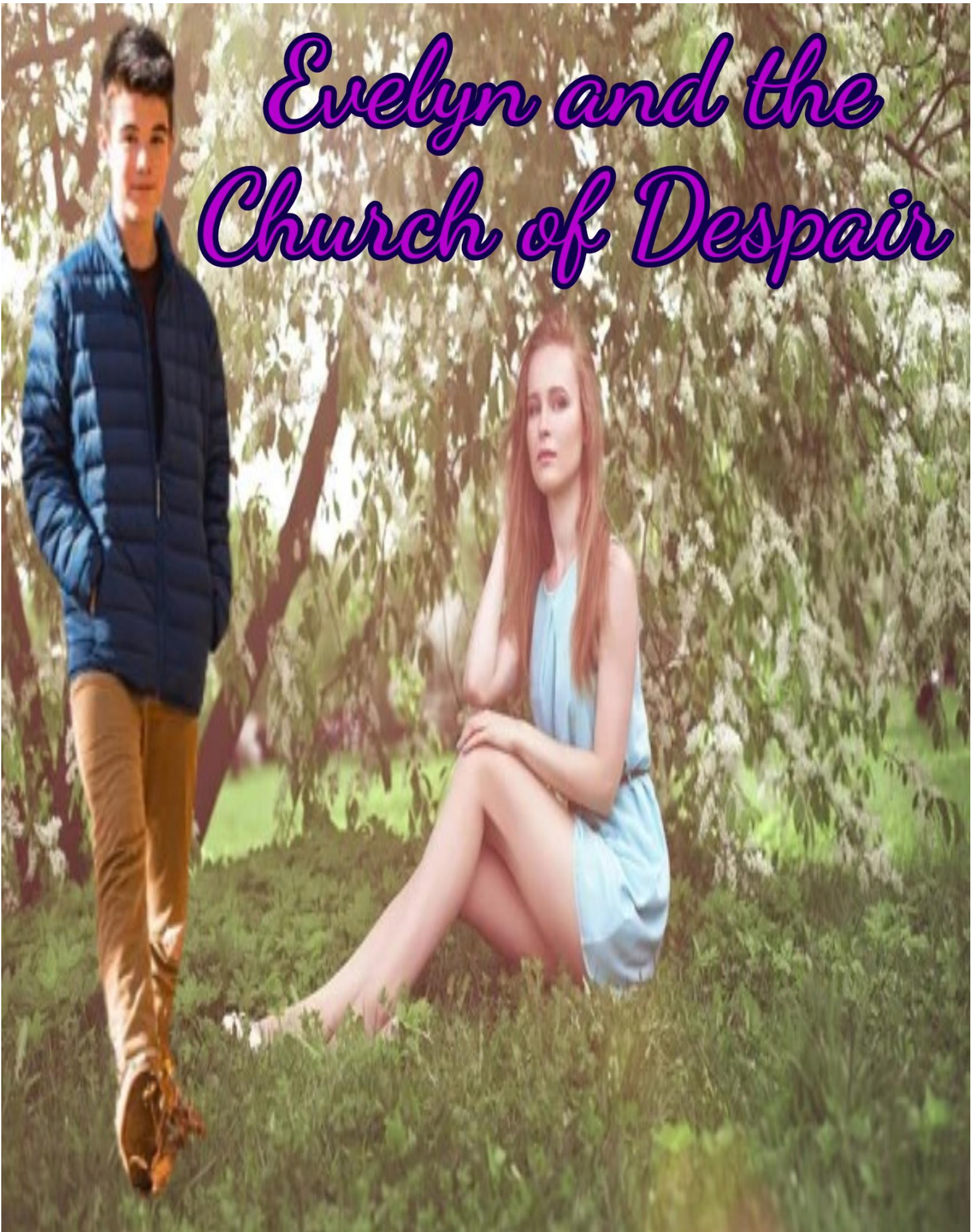
“That’s nice, I’m glad that I found this beautiful church in this lovely wildwood” Evelyn said.

Evelyn, Levi, the rest of the choir and all of the creatures of the forest, especially the Rabbits and Deer, all lived happily ever after in the church in the wildwood.

The End



Evelyn and the Church of Despair



A sixteen-year-old girl named Evelyn is sitting alone on the grass at a park near the forest. It is April, the flowers have started growing back, and it is a little windy outside. She shivers a little but continues to sit and watch the clouds float by. As Evelyn stared at the clouds, she thought about her life so far and sighed.

"I wish my life were different but unfortunately, there is no stopping life from happening" Evelyn said to herself, "I see darkness in those clouds which makes sense for me." She exclaimed with a loud huff.



Then she heard a noise coming from the forest and wondered what was there.

"Who or what are you?" She asked as she heard the noise getting louder, "I know martial arts!" She said to the figure walking towards her.

"Don't be afraid" said the mysterious figure walking to Evelyn.

"Oh, it's just you" Evelyn said, "what are you doing here?" she asked.

"Well that's a great way to greet an old friend" the mysterious person replies.

"Leave me alone Levi" Evelyn said as she stood.

"But I need your help" Levi said.

"With what?" Evelyn asked.

"The church is in danger and I need you!" Levi said.

"Oh no! I am never going back to that church!" Evelyn said.

"But it is dying, not a lot of people are coming anymore and if people stop going then it might have to close down" Levi said.

"So what, there are other churches in the world that people can go to" Evelyn said

"I know that, but this church is special and we both know it!" Levi said.

"Yeah ok, It is special to some people like you but it is just a church" Evelyn said.

"It is not just a church! It's a place of worship, singing, dancing, rejoicing, preying, laughing, crying, and so much more!" Levi said with enthusiasm.



“You just described a church, people can find those things at any church they go to”

Evelyn said.

“But it’s also a place full of family and love!” Levi said with passion, “don’t you want to come back to the family?” He asked.

“No I do not!” Evelyn said angrily.

“Why not?” Levi asked.

“Because it reminds me too much about the things I’ve lost” Evelyn said.

“What do you mean?” Levi asked.

“Don’t you ever think of your family that you left behind? Or think about your parents?” Evelyn asked.

“Not really, but maybe a little” Levi replied.

“Well I think about my family a lot and how I don’t know how to find the rest of my family or if they are even still alive!” Evelyn said.

“I’m so sorry you feel this way Evelyn, if there anything I can do?” Levi said.

“I don’t know and I’m sorry for lashing out” Evelyn said.

“It’s ok, I understand. I guess I don’t think about it that much because I don’t leave the church very often aside from going outside on nice days” Levi said.

“Are thinking about it now since you’re here with me?” Evelyn asked.

“I guess I am since we are talking about it and we are out here and not at the church” Levi replied. “Is that why you left a few years ago? Because you started thinking about your family and wanted to try to find them?” He continued.

“Yeah, I liked the church at first but after about a year, I started thinking about my family and wanted to find them” Evelyn replied.

“Did you find out anything when you left?” Levi asked.

“Unfortunately no, after I found my way back to this park, I did not know how to get anywhere else” Evelyn explained.

“How did you survive out here for a few years?” Levi asked in a concerned tone.

“I know how to make a fire and I found some wood in the forest that I used to make a small hut to sleep in” Evelyn said.

“Wow! I didn’t know you could do all that!” Levi said.

“I didn’t either until I came back to the park” Evelyn said, “I guess I subconsciously knew how” she continued.

“Maybe you learned from your parents when they were still alive” Levi suggested.

“Maybe, I don’t know. But I do know that I’m sorry but I’m still not going back to the church” Evelyn said.

“But I miss you and it is not same as it was before you left” Levi said.

“Well sometimes things change” Evelyn said, “Aren’t you at all curious to know if any of your family is still alive?” she asked.

“I don’t know, I never really thought about that idea” Levi said.

“Are you thinking about it now?” Evelyn asked.

“Yeah I guess I am because we are talking about it” Levi said, “But how could we find our families if they are even still alive, if we don’t know how to leave this park and we don’t remember our last names?” he asked.

“I don’t know, maybe we can walk around the park and try to find the exit” Evelyn said.

The two then start walking around the park to find the exit. They look all around, but all they see is grass and the forest.

“This is very weird” Evelyn said.

“Yeah” Levi replied, “maybe it’s like this park is trying to tell us something” he continued.

“Like maybe we are trapped here and need to find something that helps us find the exit?” Evelyn asks.

“Or maybe there is no exit and we trapped here” Levi said.

“That would be very strange, we need to find a way out!” Evelyn said.

“What’s your rush?” Levi asks, “why don’t we just enjoy this nice day?” he continued.

“Because this is not a nice day” Evelyn says, “Don’t you see it?” she continued.

“See what?” Levi asks.

“Look up” Evelyn says as she gestures to Levi to look up.

As the two look up at the sky, they see it get darker and see big clouds rolling in.

“It’s like in the movies when we want to see something one way, but then when we are back to reality, we see things the way the truly are” Evelyn said.

“You’re right Evelyn! It’s like we are now seeing what we are feeling while we’re out here in the real world” Levi said.

“It’s strange how our emotions can change the way we view things” Evelyn said.

“Yeah, it’s like how when I’m in the church or outside by the river, I feel fine. But when I’m out here with you, I feel all the feelings I ran away from in the first place” Levi said.

“I’m sorry that being out is bringing back these feelings” Evelyn said.

“It’s ok, I guess we have to confront our feelings at some point” Levi said.

“Yeah, I heard one time when I was younger that it’s better to deal with our feelings, rather than holding them in” Evelyn said.

“I guess that makes sense” Levi said.

“Because the more we keep our feelings in, the more intense they get and the harder it is for you when you finally let them out” Evelyn said.

“You’re right” Levi says crying, “These feelings are hard to control” he continued.

“It’s ok” Evelyn says as she starts to cry, “we have each other” she continued.

The two comfort each other as they start to deal with all of the feelings they ran away from when they were kids.

“Why did god do this to us?” Evelyn asks as she starts calming down.

“Do what?” Levi replies as he starts to calm down.

“Why did he take away our parents and have us run away from our families?” Evelyn asked.

“I don’t know” Levi replied, “I guess he wanted us to find each other” he continued.

“I’m glad that we found each other, but I wish I could see my family again” Evelyn said.

“Me too” Levi said, “I also wish I remembered how my parents died” he continued.

“I wish that too” Evelyn said, “it’s weird that we don’t remember” she continued.

“Maybe it was too tragic, or our subconscious didn’t want us to remember something like that at such a young age. I don’t even remember how old I was when it happened” Levi said.

“I don’t remember how old I was either” Evelyn said, “I guess we were so young and didn’t know what to do so we ran away and tried our best to forget about it” she continued.

“But we still remember that it happened and are getting those feelings about it now” Levi said.

“I guess we had to see the world the way it truly is to get the feelings back” Evekyn said.

“I guess so” Levi replied.

“Maybe you should stay here with me” Evelyn said.

“What do you mean?” Levi asked.

“I mean we could live in the forest together and be each others family” Evelyn said.

“I don’t know about that” Levi said, “I do miss the church” he continued.

“We shouldn’t think about the church anymore, we should stay here and live in the forest” Evelyn said, “There are people who live in tree houses you know” she continued.

“I know, but I’m not used to it” Levi said.

“You can get used to it like I did, and you said that there were not a lot of people at the church anyway” Evelyn said.

“Yeah, I was actually the only one still there because other people started to leave after you did to the point when it was just me and I came looking for you” Levi said, “I thought if I could get you to come back then maybe more people would come back” he continued.

“Well then it makes sense for us to stay here together because we don’t need the church” Evelyn said.

“We don’t?” Levi asked.

“Not really, it’s like you said before. The church is a community of family and love and other things” Evelyn said, “Yes we love the church and it’s a great building, but we don’t need a big building to be a family, we just need each other” she continued.

“Yeah, I guess you’re right, and we can still sing songs and see animals sometimes” Levi said.

“Yep, it’s like we are there but without being in the building” Evelyn said.

Then Levi and Evelyn walked into the forest and lived there together for the rest of their lives.

The End

Evelyn and the Church

