

# Into The Woods

By Scarlett & Jessica



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Once upon a time...on a bleak and stormy day... Izzie decided to go for a stroll after having an argument with her parents.

She slowly walked down the path that was lined with Rowan trees on either side. She always felt better in



Recently, she had learnt that Rowan trees were known as protectors, so she felt quite safe there.

Little did she know though that it wasn't all love and protection in that forest, because far into the woods Leshy was planning something...







He was sick of ungrateful  
villagers coming and messing  
up his forest.

They would burn the wood  
and leave rubbish on the  
ground so Leshy had just  
got fed up with it.

He was wary and suspicious  
of any human visitors now.

So, during Izzie's walk he  
decided to switch around  
the colours of the poles  
that tell you where to go

After about fifteen minutes of walking she got to the cross path. Usually the blue trail is left, and the red trail is right.

As always, she followed the red trail and kept on walking.

Suddenly she walked into a blanket of fog and before she knew it, she was lost.

Left looked right and backwards looked forwards, there was no way out.





Until she heard something. It was the first sound Izzie had heard in a while since the fog had muffled out any possible sound.

As she got closer the sound got louder, meaning that she wasn't alone after all. In the distance she could see what was making the noise.... It was a big fat toad, but it wasn't a normal ribbit sound it was making.

It sounded like the toad was trying to cough or be sick



That's when she realised  
that there was a chain  
coming out of its mouth.  
Despite the fact that it was  
a toad she grabbed the chain  
and started pulling it out of  
the toad's mouth. To her  
surprise it was a compass,  
she knew that the way back  
home was North and all she  
had to do was follow the  
compass.



So, she started walking. And eventually she found herself back at the forest. Once she got back into the main forest, she noticed that the poles had switched around again!

Suddenly whilst she was walking a little wood mouse holding an acorn ran past.

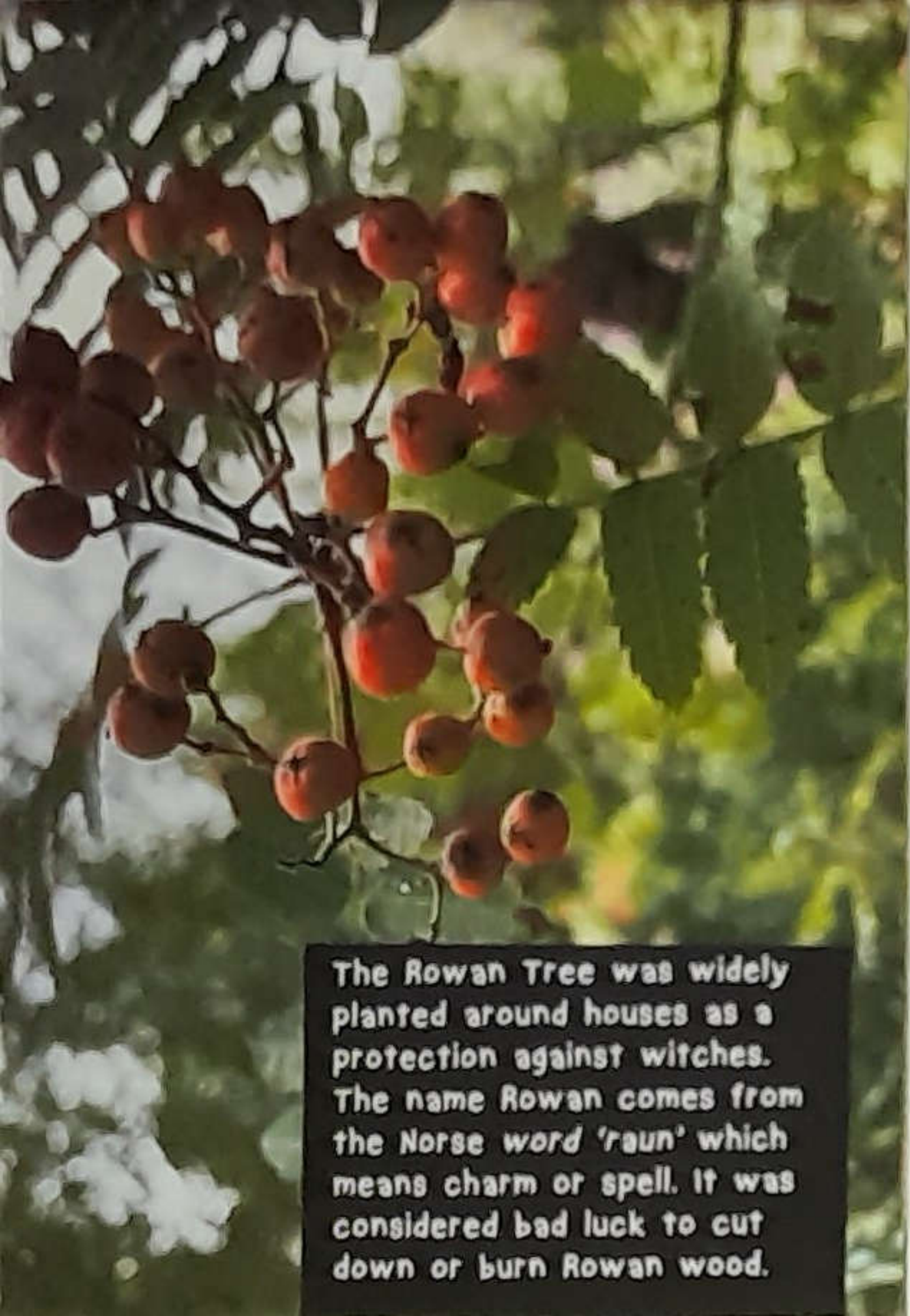




What she didn't know was  
that the little mouse was  
actually an acquaintance of  
Leshy.

Leshy was a shapeshifter and  
inside that little acorn was  
actually a tiny Leshy getting  
ready to look after the forest  
again.

"If you respect the forest, it  
will respect you."



The Rowan Tree was widely planted around houses as a protection against witches. The name Rowan comes from the Norse word 'raun' which means charm or spell. It was considered bad luck to cut down or burn Rowan wood.





Years ago traditional folk tales were an important part of entertainment and could sometimes be quite gruesome or scary, but they could also be used as a warning to young children to keep them from wondering too far away or to encourage respect for nature.

The Leshy was a Russian folklore character - a spirit of the woods that could shapeshift into different forms.

In many stories he would often lead travellers astray, but he didn't usually harm humans unless they damaged the forest.





# Into The Woods

He was sick of angry villagers coming and messing up his forest.

They would burn the wood and leave rubbish on the ground so Lesby had just got fed up with it.

He was wary and scared of any human visitors so, during Lesby's war he decided to switch around the colours of the forest that tell you where to go.

Until she heard something it was the first sound she had heard in a while since he had muffled out any possible sound.

As she got closer the sound got louder, meaning that it wasn't alone after all. At a distance she could see it was making its way. It was a big tree and it wasn't a normal tree. It was making its way.

It sounded like the forest was trying to speak to her.

That's when she realised that there was a chain coming out of its mouth. Despite the fact that it was a tree she grabbed the chain and started pulling it out of the tree's mouth. To her surprise it was a compass.

She knew that the way back home was North and all she had to do was follow the compass.



So, she started walking and eventually she found herself back at the forest. Once she got back into the forest, she noticed that the poles had switched round again.

Suddenly while she was walking a little voice was holding an acorn in its hand.



What she didn't know was that the little mouse was actually an acquaintance of Lesby.

Lesby was a shapeshifter and made that little acorn was actually a tiny Lesby getting ready to look after the forest again.

"If you respect the forest, it will respect you."

Years ago traditions told that there were an infinite number of entertainment and could sometimes be quite gruesome or scary, but they could also be used as a warning to young children to keep them from wandering too far away or to encourage respect for nature.

The Lesby was a Russian tradition character - a spirit of the woods that could shapeshift into different forms.

In many stories he would often lead travellers astray, but he didn't usually harm them. They just wanted to know where to go.

