

Two Coins For Love

By

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An Original Work

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EXT. SMALL TOWN PARK: DAY

Amidst the summer day of family activity and friends enjoying the beautiful sunny day, a couple remains separate off to the side on one of the more secluded benches. In her late forties, the woman is attempting to seem more sophisticated than is natural for her. The man is in his mid-fifties, he is still remains strong and fit, but time has begun to creep around the edges. ANNE HARRIS CRIES and pulls away, turning her back on him. DAVID SINGER ATTEMPTS to turn her around to face him. Instead, she pushes him away and runs down the back path away from the activity.

DAVID

Anne! Come back!

EXT. SECLUDED PART OF THE PARK: DAY

Anne slows as she enters a the small clearing and looks around. It is empty except for an old well, which is made from field stone, and a single bench in the center. Both are weather-worn, but it is apparent that neither have received much human attention for a long time. The path continues through the trees and up a small hill, which leads to a mansion at the top. Deliberately, Anne walks across to the well. She looks back toward the path as if she is attempting to resolve an internal conflict. She wipes her tears away and pulls a coin from her pocket. She holds it over the center of the well. Twice she changes her mind and pulls her hand back. Again she wipes away the tears and again holds the coin over the well opening.

ANNE

Spirit of the well, I wish I had never met him. Take him from my heart.

LARRY CLASPS her hand, trapping the coin in her palm before it could drop. Frightened, Anne tries to back away. He releases her, but takes the coin from her hand. Dressed in a style that was fashionable in the 1970's, Larry is a man in his forties, who time has passed by.

LARRY

Are you sure you want to make that wish?

ANNE

You scared me.

(CONTINUED)

LARRY

I meant to. Wishes made to this well come true.

ANNE

I know.

LARRY

You shouldn't make wishes you aren't certain you want.

ANNE

I know what I'm doing.

LARRY

Don't think so.

ANNE

Mind your own business.

LARRY

Why are you afraid of love?

ANNE

(defensive)

I'm not.

LARRY

(shaking his head and looking to the path she had run from)

People come here to pray to find love. You are ready to throw it away.

ANNE

(shaking her head)

I'm not throwing anything away. I'm freeing myself.

LARRY

Does he hurt you?

ANNE

(angrily)

Of course not! David would never. Besides, I'm perfectly capable of taking care of myself. I've been doing it all my life.

LARRY

I see? Is that why you run from love?

(CONTINUED)

ANNE
I'm not running.

LARRY
Then what are you doing
here? Alone.

ANNE
I could ask you the same thing.

LARRY
(looking up at the house)
I'm waiting for someone.

ANNE
Who?

LARRY
The most beautiful woman in the
world and the love of my life.

ANNE
(sarcastically)
Kinda late in life to be trying to
live a fairy tale.

LARRY
It's never too late to find love.
(smiling as he remembers)
We were so very young then. I
never thought it would take so long
for us to be together.

ANNE
Why has it?

He looks up at the house again.

LARRY
But this time will be different.

Anne's phone rings. David's name appears in the caller ID. She has mixed feelings. She wants to answer, but she won't let herself. After four rings, the voice mail picks up the call. Moments later it rings again. Anne doesn't answer it.

LARRY
Persistent isn't he.

ANNE
He'll get over it.

LARRY

Do you really want him too? You love him. I can tell. Why won't you drop your guard enough to let someone else in?

ANNE

I can't.

LARRY

Why can't you? You love him.

ANNE

You wouldn't understand.

LARRY

Probably more than I would like to admit.

David sends a text messages. "I love you." "It doesn't matter. Just come back." "Please, baby. Just talk to me."

LARRY

He loves you.

ANNE

He thinks he does. He asked me to marry him.

LARRY

Don't you trust him?

ANNE

It's me. David is beautiful, inside and out. He's smart and funny. He achieved every goal he has set for himself and more--nearly everything I've broken every promised I made to myself--given up on every dream when the gong got tough. I've changed. But no matter how hard I work, there is no way I can catch up. How could someone so wonderful love me?

LARRY

We can't see in others that which is not already within ourselves.

ANNE

That's crap!

Larry walks toward the well and looks up at the house. He looks at her coin.

(CONTINUED)

LARRY
(almost to himself)
I knew there had to be a reason.

Tucking the coin into his pocket, he turns to face Anne.

LARRY
We were very young when we fell in love. We used to tease each other. I was hopelessly in love with her the moment I looked into her blue eyes. It took her a whole five minutes longer. I was a wild child from the wrong side of the tracks. Her father hated me. Didn't think I was good enough for his only child. She didn't care.

ANNE
Why don't you just go get her?

LARRY
She waited on me enough times. It's my turn. She wants to say a proper goodbye to her family.

Anne's phone rings again. She turns it off and tucks it into her back pocket.

LARRY
(motioning toward the bench)
Why are you afraid of love?

ANNE
I'm not.

LARRY
Why didn't you say yes.

Anne walks away from him and looks toward the path.

ANNE
I told you. He deserves better.

LARRY
Can't you just trust him to know who and what will make him happy? Or are you afraid that he isn't the man you think he is?

Larry watches two cars speed up the driveway that leads to the mansion.

EXT: LONG DRIVEWAY ALONG THE PARK: DAY

Two cars park in front of the house. Several people get out of each car. A middle-aged woman runs out of the front door to meet them. She embraces them individually as they walk toward her and enter the house.

EXT. SECLUDED PART OF THE PARK: DAY

Several voices can be heard, including a woman who starts crying, but neither Anne nor Larry can see them. Larry takes several steps toward the path leading up to the mansion, but he stops himself. Sighing, he turns back to Anne.

ANNE

Just go to her.

LARRY

(shaking his head)

Let me tell you a story about two people who were very much in love.

ANNE

And me without popcorn.

LARRY

Sarcasm is the refuge for cowards and simpletons. Which are you?

ANNE

I'm the one who thinks you are real good at giving advice, but not so good at taking it.

(pointing at the third arriving car)

What if her family talks her out of going with you again.

LARRY

They can't.

He pulls a shiny 1940 penny out of his pocket. Not this time.

ANNE

What's that?

LARRY

A promise. One that will finally be fulfilled. It's a part of the story. Interested? Or do you have some place else to go.

(CONTINUED)

Anne briefly looks at the path leading back into the park, then nods.

LARRY

(pointing to the bench)

We have a little time.

They sit.

I dropped out of high school. One paycheck wasn't feeding all the mouths. It was either me or my mother. I was the oldest. It was how we met.

ANNE

She worked there too.

LARRY

Owners daughter. Yes, I know. A cliché in the making. She wouldn't stop seeing me. He fired me and put the word out. No one would hire me. She didn't care. I was broke with no prospects and she still loved me. He threatened to fire my father unless I left town. I couldn't let that happen.

ANNE

That isn't legal. You could have sued.

LARRY

I enlisted in the Army. I asked her to marry me.

ANNE

She said no?

LARRY

Without hesitation, she said yes. She was willing to give up everything. Position. Money. Her family. Just for me. We met at the well.

ANNE

I don't understand. Did her father stop you?

LARRY

I did. I was going to basic. Then overseas. She would have been

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LARRY (cont'd)
alone. I made the decision for
both of us.

Larry hesitates and looks up at the mansion.

LARRY
If I had only known...

ANNE
What?

LARRY
She didn't like it but she accepted
my decision. She had two
pennies. One for her. One for me.
Someone had given them to her for
good luck. She wanted us to make a
wish before I left. I wished that
we would love each other
forever. Instead of making her
wish, she gave her penny to
me. She told me to send it to her
when I was ready to claim her
forever.

ANNE
Why wait for so long?

LARRY
You're getting ahead of the story.

One of the cars pulls slowly away from the house. Larry
stops and watches it drive off.

LARRY
I graduated boot camp and was
shipped overseas. While I was
away, they told her I had been
killed. They convinced her to
marry a man of their choosing.

ANNE
Why--

LARRY
(motioning for her to be
silent)
I came back and sent the penny to
her. She met me here already
packed and ready to leave. She was
married and six months pregnant
with her second child--

(CONTINUED)

Larry turns away to compose himself and wipe away the tears.
If I had known--

ANNE

It was her choice. She chose to
follow her heart.

Anne walks around to look him in the eyes. He tries to look
away, but he stops himself.

LARRY

I couldn't let her do it. I had
nothing to offer her. She had a
home and children--a man who could
provide for her.

ANNE

Could he give her love?

LARRY

She took off her wedding ring and
dropped it in the grass. She
kissed me. She said that no matter
what anyone else thought, no matter
what a piece of paper said--she had
been my wife since she gave me
this.

He holds up the penny.

ANNE

You sent it to her.

LARRY

(nodding)

That day she gave it back to me.
She made me promise to send it to
her when I was ready to be her
husband.

ANNE

(angrily taking the penny and
holding it up to him)
And you called me a coward!

LARRY

I left. No matter where I went I
wrote to her that it wouldn't be
much longer. I used my GI benefits
to get my high school diploma and a
college education. I worked my ass
off. Nights. Weekends. Lived on
nothing. Saved every penny. Every

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LARRY (cont'd)
night, I dreamt we were
together. Sometimes we would make
love. Most times, we just held each
other. I'd wake in the morning so
sure she was there. Her scent was
on the pillow beside me.

ANNE
You just had to go to her.

LARRY
(taking the penny)
Every time I got tired or
discouraged, I looked at it. I
could hear her voice, telling me
she was my wife--asking when I was
going to be her husband. Finally,
I was able to give her everything
she deserved. And I sent it to
her.

ANNE
What happened? Were you too
late? Is that the moral to your
story? You came to the well and
she just gave it back to you?

LARRY
I don't know if she came. I
couldn't.

Elderly and dressed in a night gown, a female figure walks
down the path from the house.

ANNE
I don't understand.

Larry sees the woman. The sadness is replaced by joy.

LARRY
None of that matters now.

ANNE
If you didn't meet, how did you get
it back.

LARRY
She sent it to me this morning.
That's why I came back. I knew it
was finally time.

Anne follows his gaze to the woman. In the background, a
hearse drives up toward the mansion.

(CONTINUED)

LARRY

You have only one question you need to ask yourself. Do you want to wait forever for what you already have?

Without waiting for her answer, Larry walks to meet the woman. As they approach each other the years fall away. When they met at the well, they are once again the same teenagers who fell in love. She takes the penny from his hand.

WOMAN

May we be together forever.

She drops the penny in the well. He embraces her. As they passionately kiss, they transform into brilliant figures of light that melt into each other. Elongating upward, as if they are reaching for the heavens, they vanish.

Tears streaming down her face, Anne walks to the well. On the rim, there are three coins. Off to one side is the coin she intended to throw in the well. Two overlapping pennies lay a few inches away. She picks up her coin, but focuses on the other two. As hard as she can, she tosses her coin away. Picking up the pennies, she folds her fingers around them

ANNE

David!

She pulls out her phone and turns it on. It immediately rings. David's name comes up on the caller ID. She answers it.

DAVID

(very upset off screen)
Please, baby. Don't leave me!

ANNE

Yes!

DAVID

(frightened off screen)
Yes?

ANNE

Yes, I will marry you.

DAVID

(off camera)
Really baby. You won't be sorry. I love you. I'll make you happy. I promise.

(CONTINUED)

ANNE

We're going to make each other
happy--forever.

DAVID

Where are you? I've been searching
the park.

ANNE

By the wishing well.

DAVID

Can't be. They filled it in years
ago. It was a safety hazard.

Smiling, Anne turns to look at the well.

ANNE

Baby, meet me back where I left
you. I have a story to tell
you. And it has a fairy tale happy
ending.

Happily, Anna runs back down the path.