

Widdershins

Two halflings travel from their world to Earth  
to fetch their queen her latest wish:  
a Christmas tree.

WIDDERSHINS

FADE IN:

EXT. A CHRISTMAS TREE FARM - DAY

A gentle snow falls in silence on row upon row of various sizes of Christmas trees on a plot of land in the middle of empty farm fields.

GENTLY TINKLING BELLS. A door-sized portal pops into existence in the midst of the trees.

Two male halflings, FEN and NUB, step through the portal, hunched together, eyes closed.

They stop.

The portal closes, leaving them in SILENCE again.

They are well dressed in regal medieval-style garb but have bare feet. Both wear hooded capes, hoods down, each pinned with a unique, elegant brooch.

FEN is carrying a saw.

NUB is carrying a filled fishbowl with a goldfish in it.

NUB

Are we there yet, Fen?

FEN opens one eye and looks around warily. Then he opens the other. He finally lets go of NUB and steps away, standing confidently with fists on his hips.

FEN

We are, indeed, Nub, my lad.

Still hunched, NUB opens his eyes and peers around. He straightens up.

NUB

This is it?

FEN

Well, what did we come for?

NUB

A tree?

FEN

Not just a tree, but...?

NUB

A...

FEN looks expectant.

A...? FEN

Chris... NUB

Mmmmm? FEN

Mas? NUB

FEN looks happy.

NUB (CONT'D)  
Christ...mas? Christmas! A Christmas  
tree.

FEN  
Right you are. And look around.  
What do you see?

NUB looks around again.

Trees. NUB

He looks at FEN.

NUB (CONT'D)  
Christmas trees?

FEN  
Of course they're Christmas trees.

NUB  
Are you sure? We've never seen any.

FEN  
Who sent us here?

NUB  
The Queen. For her Christmas tree.

FEN  
No. I mean... yes, but who did up  
his hocus pocus, and all, and opened  
that portal that we just walked  
through to send us... here.

He points down.

NUB  
Ah. Magi Regus.

FEN  
Right. And do you think he'd make a mistake in sending us where we needed to go to complete our mission?

NUB  
I should think not.

FEN  
Ergo, these must be...?

He opens his hands to present their surroundings.

NUB  
Christmas trees.

FEN smiles and straightens up, looking around.

FEN  
Right. This way.

He waves NUB in a direction and starts walking that way.

FEN strides ahead confidently as NUB follows, unsure, careful with the fishbowl, which finally gets his full attention.

NUB  
Why do you think Magi Regus gave me this?

FEN  
What's that?

NUB  
His goldfish.

FEN  
He said we needed it to complete the portal spell.

NUB looks at the fish through the side of the bowl.

NUB  
It just seems odd. A goldfish? To travel from one world to another? I think maybe it was a joke.

FEN  
Ours are not to wonder why, Nub.  
(MORE)

FEN (CONT'D)

The Queen wants a tree for some new tradition she heard of, about being thankful and giving gifts. The least of the lesser noble families like ours? We just do what we're told, whether it's trekking across the continent for a bit of jewelery, or finding a tree on another world by holding onto a fish.

He stops and looks at a tree.

FEN (CONT'D)

This one.

He steps forward and starts sawing the tree as NUB again looks at the goldfish through the side of the bowl.

FEN SAWS AWAY in the BG.

FEN (CONT'D)

(O.S.)

Watch yourself!

NUB looks up and stands aside as the tree CRASHES DOWN beside him.

The tree inches away. NUB walks down to where FEN is pulling at the bottom, and lends his one free hand to help pull.

They finally get it out into the empty field just beyond the edge of the tree farm and they drop it.

FEN (CONT'D)

Right, and the Magi said to walk deosil around it to open the portal again?

NUB

Widdershins.

FEN

You're daft. Deosil.

NUB

No. Remember what he said? "Fish to the right 'til a tree is in sight. Fish to the left with a tree to heft." So we walk...

He gestures a curve to the left.

NUB (CONT'D)

Widdershins.

FEN

Hmph. Guess I missed that bit.

They begin to walk in a circle counterclockwise until we hear the GENTLE TINKLING OF BELLS as the portal opens up in the middle of the circle they'd created.

FEN and NUB stop and look at it.

A beat.

They look at each other.

FEN gestures to the portal.

FEN (CONT'D)

I do believe we have a tree to deliver.

NUB

And a fish to return.

They look around at the silent fields as snow falls.

FEN

Well...

They turn back to each other.

FEN (CONT'D)

I don't really know what it means yet, Nub, but Merry Christmas.

NUB smiles.

NUB

Merry Christmas, Fen.

They pull the tree and start disappearing as they edge into the portal.

NUB (CONT'D)

Do you think I could ask to keep the fish for my Christmas present?

FEN

Don't push your luck.

They disappear inside with the rest of the tree and the portal fades away, along with the GENTLY TINKLING BELLS.

Snow falls in silence.

FADE OUT