

# MURDER IN THE FOREST

by Elif Zümra Şensizoğlu

## **Setting:**

In 2025, in England, at midnight in Autumn, in the forest at the Adrian's campsite

## **Characters:**

ALICE: 22 years old, long and blonde hair, Adrian's daughter, amateur singer, British, good-hearted and cheerful

ADRIAN: 50 years old, tall and burly, Alice's father, campsite owner, British, fond of his daughter and ambitious

ARTHUR: 40 years old, medium height and black hair, murderer, British, cruel and callous

FELIX: 35 years old, short and spectacled, detective, British, liar, hypocrite and cruel.

GILBERT: 34 years old, tall and brown hair, engineer, British, coward

DAVID: 33 years old, black hair and blue eyes, teacher, British, calm

JOHN: 32 years old, spectacled and tall, teacher, British, honest and reliable

## **SCENE 1**

*(At ADRIAN's campsite. There are a lot of trees, a few tents and a fire. At midnight, FELIX, GILBERT and a few of their friends are sitting around the fire.)*

GILBERT: *(looks around nervously)* It's very quiet here, don't you think?

FELIX: *(laughs)* Gilbert, you need to relax. It's very quiet because it's night. Wouldn't it be scarier if there was sound?

JOHN: I think Gilbert is right, too. I feel like I'm in a horror movie and someone is watching me.

DAVID: *(changing his voice)* Maybe there's a mysterious creature in the forest.

GILBERT: *(annoyed)* Very funny! Stop fooling around. I already have a bad feeling.

*(Suddenly, a sharp, blood-curdling scream echoes through the forest. Everyone freezes.)*

GILBERT: *(aloud)* What was that?! I told you something bad would happen...

FELIX: *(suddenly stands up and looks uneasy)* This must be a cry for help, we must go for help immediately.

GILBERT: *(voice trembling)* What if this is a trap? What if they catch us and steal our organs?

JOHN: Stop writing stories, Gilbert, what if someone needs help?

FELIX: *(determined)* We need to check. Let's divide into groups. Gilbert, you come with me. Rest of the team, you stay here. If we don't come back, call the police.

GILBERT: Why am I coming? David should come with you.

FELIX: *(grabs GILBERT's arm and pulls him)* Come on!

DAVID: Be careful!

*(FELIX and GILBERT take their flashlights and start walking through the dark forest. When he comes to a river bank, GILBERT sees the woman lying on the ground. He shouts and points the woman to FELIX. FELIX goes to the woman, standing motionless. The woman lying on the ground is ALICE.)*

GILBERT: *(retreats in fear)* It can't be!... Is she... is she dead?

FELIX: *(checks her pulse)* Yes...

FELIX: There's no blood around. There are no traces on the woman either. Let's notify the authorities immediately.

*(Trembling, GILBERT begs to get away from the scene but FELIX continues to examine the body. GILBERT turns his head to the right in sadness and sees a man in black.)*

GILBERT: FELIX! Look over there!

*(FELIX turns right. The man in black starts running away at that moment. FELIX and GILBERT also start running towards the man, but they cannot catch up.)*

FELIX: Let's call the police immediately.  
*(Lights go out.)*

## **SCENE 2**

*(It is morning. The campsite is still full of police, prosecutors and forensic experts. ALICE's father, ADRIAN, is also there and crying. While GILBERT sits nearby with worry, FELIX is with those examining the body.)*

POLICE OFFICER: *(To FELIX)* Have you ever seen the person who did it or this woman?

FELIX: *(Serious)* No, I don't know the woman, we saw the man running away but we couldn't catch him.

ADRIAN: *(Tears in his eyes)* Alice... my girl... who would do this? I wish he had killed me.

GILBERT: *(Quietly)* I saw the man's face.

POLICE OFFICER: What did you say?

GILBERT: I can define him if you want.

*(Although FELIX wants to try to prevent this, he remains silent in order not to attract attention. He also thinks that he cannot see very well in the dark anyway. A sketch of the criminal is drawn based on GILBERT's descriptions. ADRIAN gets very angry when he sees the robot picture.)*

ADRIAN: *(angrily)* Arthur!

POLICE OFFICER: Who is Arthur?

FELIX: *(anxiously)* Arthur?

ADRIAN: *(His voice shaking with anger)* He wanted to buy my campsite last month. I refused but I really didn't think it would go this far.

*(FELIX and GILBERT look at each other. ARTHUR's evil plan begins to emerge. ADRIAN quickly gets up and goes to his wooden cabin at the campsite. FELIX follows him to find out what's going on and takes GILBERT with him. The other side of the stage represents the room. The room is a mess. There is a framed photograph of ALICE on the table. ADRIAN sits in his chair, completely silent, not taking his eyes off ALICE's picture, his hands clasped together. His eyes are bloodshot, full of grief and anger. FELIX and GILBERT are standing next to him, both tense.)*

FELIX: We are truly sorry for your loss.

GILBERT: *(Nods)* Yes. We will do our best to help find justice.

ADRIAN: *(coldly, without looking at them)* No. You won't. I will do it.

FELIX: *(Frowning)* What do you mean?

ADRIAN: *(Still looking at Alice's photo)* I will get justice... my way.

GILBERT: *(Worriedly)* That's something the police will have to handle...

ADRIAN: *(Suddenly standing up, shouting)* Police?! What will they do? Will they bring Alice back?

*(FELIX and GILBERT freeze in shock. ADRIAN slowly reaches into a drawer and pulls out an old gun. He holds the gun tightly and looks at it as if making a final decision.)*

FELIX: *(Worried)* You can't do this!

*(He stands up, puts the gun inside his jacket. He looks at ALICE's picture one last time with pain before heading towards the door.)*

FELIX: *(blocking his path)* You know that if you do this, there's no going back, right?

ADRIAN: *(Softly, almost whispering)* There's no turning back anyway.

*(ADRIAN pushes FELIX and goes out. The door slams shut. FELIX and GILBERT look at each other worriedly.)*

FELIX: We have to stop him.

GILBERT: What can we do? The man is right. If I were in the same situation, I would act this way too.

*(FELIX realizes that this is his responsibility and decides to go after ADRIAN, but he is afraid that he will kill himself if he is caught because the anger in ADRIAN's eyes is like he has never seen before.)*

### **SCENE 3**

*(As the scene opens, a deserted parking lot outside the city is visible. A single street lamp flickers in the distance. ADRIAN stands next to his old pickup truck. He quietly cleans his gun and loads the bullets. His face is cold and expressionless, but his hands are shaking slightly. A few meters away, FELIX comes running onto the stage. When FELIX sees ADRIAN loading his gun next to the truck, he quickly runs towards him.)*

FELIX: *(Gasps)* Adrian! Don't do this!

ADRIAN: *(Calmly, without taking his eyes off him)* It's too late.

FELIX: *(Approaching)* No, it's not too late. Adrian, listen to me; this is not justice, this is murder!

ADRIAN: So what was Alice's death? Was it legal? Was it fair? Should I wait for the cops and watch the media show Alice?

*(FELIX nervously thinks about what to do. Meanwhile, ADRIAN puts the last bullet into his gun and puts the gun in his pocket.)*

FELIX: *(Anxiously)* Adrian, if you do this, there will be no turning back. You will live forever as a murderer. Are you aware of this?

ADRIAN: *(looks at him with an expressionless face)* I am aware of everything. I already died with Alice.

*(FELIX sees the emptiness in his eyes for the first time. ADRIAN has now entered an irreversible path. He understands this and his fear increases.)*

FELIX: *(With tears in his eyes)* Alice wouldn't want that.

ADRIAN: *(low voice)* Alice didn't want to die either.

*(After a short silence, ADRIAN gets in his truck and disappears.)*

FELIX: *(Jumping forward)* Adrian!

ADRIAN: *(Calling from the truck window in a distant voice)* Go home, Felix.

*(ADRIAN's truck disappears into the darkness.)*

FELIX: I have to save Arthur!

*(FELIX quickly goes towards ARTHUR's house. He needs to go and warn him before ADRIAN does. FELIX has hidden the fact that he is a bad person, but he is ARTHUR's friend and supported this murder.)*

## **SCENE 4**

*(The scene opens to ARTHUR's house. ADRIAN takes a deep breath and thinks one last time. Although it is not in his nature to kill a human being, he thinks that the person who killed his daughter has already lost his humanity and makes his final decision. ADRIAN enters ARTHUR's house through the open window and heads for the stairs. There is only one room at the end of the stairs. ADRIAN*



*pushes the door open and comes face to face with ARTHUR. ARTHUR realizes that he has reached the end of the road.)*

ARTHUR: Please don't, Adrian. I will turn myself over to the po...

*(A gunshot is heard.)*

ADRIAN: I avenged you, my beautiful girl...

*(ADRIAN turns around and sees FELIX running up the stairs. FELIX has a gun in his hand and points it at ADRIAN.)*

ADRIAN: I should have figured it out sooner.

FELIX: You killed my friend, I'll send you to your daughter.

*(FELIX shoots ADRIAN. ADRIAN is reunited with his daughter with a smile and peace on his face. FELIX hears sirens as he leans over to ARTHUR and begins to panic, but the police catch FELIX before he can escape.)*

*(The lights go out and when all the actors are in the middle of the stage, the lights come back on. A bow is taken and the play ends.)*