

FINDING HANS

A Serial In Four Parts

by

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Episode One:

Not An Ugly Duckling ...

Characters:

Salengra

Gerda

Newsreader

Freya

Dawley

Finbar

Darius Mc Dermody

Woman

✧ **PROLOGUE**

- 1 **Salengra:** Gerda ...
- 2 **Gerda:** Who are you?
- 3 **Salengra:** My name is Salengra. I'll take you to the Snow Queen's castle.
- 4 **Gerda:** Hans Andersen never wrote about a Salengra.
- 5 **Salengra:** This is a modern version.
- 6 **Gerda:** Where's The Little Robber Girl? At this stage in our story I should be with her ...
- 7 **Salengra:** No in my version things are a little different.
- 8 **Gerda:** You can't change a Fairy Tale. I have to find Kay ... or –
- 9 **Salengra:** ***(INTERRUPTS)*** Or he'll be turned to ice. I'm looking forward to that. He's such a boring little sprog. And you, little Gerda, are already listed among the disappeared, destined to wander in a different time, away from those insipid stories of Hans Christian Andersen ...
- 10 **Gerda:** Why are you doing this?
- 11 **Salengra:** Let me see, where to send you ... I think an island is best. Yes ***(SHE SPELLS & TYPES)*** www. Ireland.
- 12 **Gerda:** I don't want to go anywhere. I have to find Kay.
- 13 **Salengra:** Bye bye little Gerda ...

➤ ***FX: ELECTRONIC SOUNDS.***

- 14 **Gerda:** ***(FADING VOICE)*** ... No pleaseeeeeeeeeee.
- 15 **Salengra:** How satisfying was that! ***(SHE LAUGHS)***

✧ **SCENE 1**

- 1 **Newsreader:** Major International IT Companies are warning about a deadly computer virus which has been corrupting the final pages of vital documents. Unlike anything ever seen before this virus has also shown signs of mutating, to affect the world of classical texts.
- 2 **Freya:** *I never pay attention to the news on Saturday mornings ... so I had no way of knowing that this particular piece of international business news would end up with me and my friend Finbar in the middle of this incredible adventure. But it did, big time. It all started in that old book shop, Dawley's Classical Collections ... you know the one! down on the quays ... has that rickety old spiral staircase and hundreds and hundreds of really old books. Finbar and I wanted something a bit different ... out of the ordinary ... to bring to our school book club.*

➤ **FX: SHOP BELL. INTERNAL.**

- 3 **Dawley:** At last! What kept you my dear!
- 4 **Freya:** Sorry.
- 5 **Dawley:** I'm Demetrius Dawley ... We've been expecting you.
- 6 **Finbar:** Who?
- 7 **Dawley:** You are Freya aren't you? Danish Grandfather, on your mother's side?
- 8 **Freya:** How did you know that?

- 9 **Dawley:** Magnus Morgad ? whose father was Christian Morgad?
- 10 **Freya:** Yes but my name is Freya Ferguson.

- 1 **Finbar:** She's Irish.
- 2 **Dawley:** A mere detail boy ... blood line is what is important here. As I said ... we've been expecting you ... third aisle on the right, second shelf down from the top ... a copy of Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Stories ... A first edition ... very rare ...
- 3 **Freya:** I'm not looking for ...
- 4 **Dawley:** **(INTERRUPTING)** No but it is looking for you.
- 5 **Finbar:** **(WHISPERS)** Let's get out of here Freya this guy is too weird.
- 6 **Freya:** I don't understand ...
- 7 **Finbar:** **(WHISPERS)** He's totally lost it. Come on Freya!
- 8 **Dawley:** Just follow me ... follow me.
- 9 **Finbar:** **(WHISPERING URGENTLY)** Freya! What are you doing!
- 10 **Dawley:** You can stay there and wait if you like young Flumbar.
- 11 **Finbar:** It's Finbar!

➤ **FX: A CLOCK STRIKES THE HALF HOUR.**

- 12 **Freya:** *He'd definitely said "We've been expecting you" but there was only him and me and Finbar in the shop! That was my first mistake.*
- 13 **Dawley:** Here we are now. Of course your grandfather was part of the inner circle.
- 14 **Finbar:** Inner circle? **(WHISPERS)** what is he talkin' about Freya ?
- 15 **Freya:** **(WHISPERS BACK)** I don't know.

1 **Dawley:** Just lift the book out and all will be revealed ... step up on to this shelf Freya ... and reach ...

➤ **FX: SHOP BELL.**

2 **Dawley:** Quickly now ... I need to get back to my customers.

3 **Freya:** *I stood up on the second shelf from the bottom, in a space between ... Russian Tales of Mystery and Mayhem and Spells of the Misbegotten ... I went on tip toes and reached. First there was the music –*

➤ **FX: MUSIC.**

4 **Freya:** *– then the air filled with hundreds of thousands of multi coloured sparks. Blue and yellow, turquoise, red, green, sliver, even gold.*

5 **Finbar:** Wow awesome!

6 **Freya:** The shelf is turning! ...

➤ **FX: CREAKING SOUND AS SHELF REVOLVES.**

7 **Freya:** Hey! Mr Dawley! Finbar! Mr Dawley!

8 **Finbar:** Freya ... jump back, jump back!

➤ **FX: THE MUSIC IS NOW MUFFLED AND FADING.**

9 **Darius:** It's okay Freya ... here let me help you down.

1 **Freya:** No it's not okay! ... who are you? ... Where's the bookshop gone? And my friend Finbar ...

➤ ***FX: WE HEAR FINBAR'S MUFFLED VOICE CALLING.***

2 **Finbar:** Freya where are you?

3 **Darius:** I'm Darius McDermody, excuse me a moment.

➤ ***FX: CREAKING AS SHELVING TURNS.***

4 **Darius:** You'd better come in young man ...

5 **Finbar:** Freya what's goin' on ... who's he? ... What's that smell!

6 **Darius:** I've borrowed this secret store room from my old friend Demetrius ... sound-proofed ... spy-proofed ...

7 **Finbar:** ... it's scones, or cake, or maybe biscuits.

8 **Darius:** You met Demetrius ...

9 **Freya:** Mr Dawley? Yes.

10 **Darius:** He's an Honourary Member of the Order of Enchanted Tales, Myths and Legends of which I am Grand Master and Protector. Your Danish grandfather Freya was our Keeper and Solver of Secrets. A remarkable man.

11 **Freya:** Have we been kidnapped?

12 **Darius:** What!

13 **Finbar:** If you're looking for a ransom, my family have no money.

- 1 **Darius:** Ransom! Kidnap! No! no! not at all! You're free to go any time you like.
- 2 **Freya:** Ok ... ok so you're not a bad guy. What did you say your name was again?
- 3 **Darius:** Darius Mc Dermody K-P-O-E-T-M and L.
- 4 **Finbar:** What's all that stand for?
- 5 **Darius:** Knight and Protector of the Order of Enchanted Tales, Myths and Legends.
- 6 **Freya:** I didn't think they needed protecting.
- 7 **Darius:** We're an International Organisation,.
- 8 **Freya:** Well I've never heard of you.
- 9 **Finbar:** Me neither.
- 10 **Darius:** But we've heard of you Freya ... and know that you are one of the few people who can help us .
- 11 **Freya:** Me?
- 12 **Finbar:** Her?
- 13 **Freya:** There's no need to say it like that Finbar.
- 14 **Finbar:** I didn't mean ...
- 15 **Darius:** ***(INTERRUPTING)*** You heard the news this morning?
- 16 **Finbar:** The mutating computer virus ... awesome.
- 17 **Darius:** Let me turn up some of these boxes and we can sit and talk. I have a flask of tea here and some fairy cakes.
- 18 **Finbar:** I knew I smelt cake. I'm starving.
- 19 **Freya:** You're always starving.