

Witch Slap!

By Jeff Goode

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(NOVELLA notices SYLVIA staring at her.)

NOVELLA (to SYLVIA) Stop it! Stop staring at me.

SYLVIA Wasn't staring.

NOVELLA You're looking right at me.

SYLVIA Why do you hate me?

NOVELLA I never said I hated you.

SYLVIA Don't have to say it.

NOVELLA So now you're a mind reader?

SYLVIA I've been hated before. I know what it looks like.

NOVELLA Let me tell you something. Mind reading is hard! You have to practice. A lot. Till you get headaches. Migraines from thinking too much about what's going on in someone else's head. Not enough room in your own head for all those thoughts running around giving you nightmares. Sleepless nights being chased by wolves and brambles and giant shears come to shave off your wool and make you into a sweater.

JEZEBELLA Have you been mind reading on sheep?

NOVELLA She won't let me practice on people!

SYLVIA Maybe she doesn't think you can handle the material. (The others laugh.)

NOVELLA You only think you're funny cuz you're young and pretty. But nothing lasts forever and she'll cast you aside soon enough. They always do. And then you'll know what it's like to be in my shoes.

SYLVIA Oh, I could never hope to fill your shoes.

NOVELLA Thank you. That's-

SYLVIA Because they're huge.

NOVELLA My feet are not-

SYLVIA Do they even make those in women's sizes? (The others laugh.)

NOVELLA Y'know, there's a reason your mum was so quick to get rid of you.

BLUNT What? That's not true, Sylvie. I never said that. Not out loud. Not in front of her. Why is everyone looking at me?

NOVELLA (to SYLVIA) Ha!

SYLVIA Witch!

NOVELLA Novice! (They lunge at each other.)

(FIGHT #5 - NOVELLA AND SYLVIA CAT FIGHT) JEZEBELLA Witch fight! (The others look on and ad lib encouragement.)

JEZEBELLA Pull her hair!

WIDOW Rip her top!

BLUNT Use your teeth!

MINERVA Grummin inna pigga!

(NOVELLA AND SYLVIA WRESTLE until CRONE finishes the parchment and hobbles over.)

CRONE All right, that's enough of that. Haven't we got enough trouble with the whole world looking to burn us to soot without you tearing each others eyes out?

NOVELLA She started it!

SYLVIA She was disparaging my mistress.

CRONE I know, dearie. Now, go clear off a table for me.

NOVELLA You don't believe her???

CRONE She hasn't lied to me yet. And that makes one of you.