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Opening extract from

The Spiderwick Chronicles: Official Movie Companion

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Table of Contents



Foreword 4

The Story 8

The Location 12

The Mansion 14

The Director 16

The Cast 19

The Production Team 30

The Creatures 32

The Set 38

The Special Effects 41

And Action! 44







FOREWORD

Once upon a time, two talented, imaginative people—author/illustrator Tony DiTerlizzi and writer Holly Black—received a letter from three children who claimed they had seen faeries. Whether this was true or not didn't matter—Tony and Holly, who once shared a passion for the game Dungeons and Dragons, were intrigued.

The letter-writers were Jared Grace; his twin brother, Simon; and their older sister, Mallory. Tony and Holly visited them in Maine, and were shown "faerie artifacts" as the kids told stories about what they had witnessed. The idea that these modern-day children were having adventures with faerie-tale characters fascinated Holly and Tony, and they turned the stories—with some changes and enhancements—into the wonderful five-book series, the Spiderwick Chronicles.



The books were a huge success, their small size and antique design attracting many readers of all ages, as did the unique stories, which combine modern-day kids dealing with realistic family problems and a fantasy world that is based on centuries-old faerie folklore. Along with the success of the series came the idea for a movie based on the books. The challenge was to combine parts of all five books into one satisfying and visually appealing story!



The Spiderwick Chronicles is a movie about discovery—characters who discover an unseen, fantastical world and, at the same time, discover their family. It's a story about real kids who have to figure out how to battle trolls, ogres, and goblins. It's a journey that, in the end, brings a family together.

On the following pages readers will have a look behind the scenes and meet the dedicated people and production teams responsible for the creation of this wondrous movie.

In the early planning stages the idea was for the movie to tell just two of the five books in the Spiderwick Chronicles series because five felt like "too much for one movie," said Karey Kirkpatrick, one of the producers, who also cowrote the screenplay with John Sayles. However, because the five books told a complete story arc, it was decided that the movie needed to be adapted from all of them. "I think the challenge for the actors when you have a wealth of imaginative and great things to choose from is which ones you have to pull out," Karey added. "That's always the painful part."



Karey Kirkpatrick has written a number of screenplays since graduating from the University of Southern California film school. Among them are *Charlotte's Web*; *Over the Hedge*; *Chicken Run*; *Honey, We Shrunk Ourselves*; *James and the Giant Peach*; and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. He also directed *Over the Hedge* (for which he won an Annie award, the highest honor for animated features) and served as a creative consultant on *Madagascar*.

John Sayles is well-known as a novelist, screenwriter, and filmmaker. He is the director of sixteen movies, including *Lone Star*, *Eight Men Out*, and *The Secret of Roan Inish*. Born in upstate New York, John graduated from Williams College with a psychology major. At Williams his classmate was David Strathairn, who plays Arthur Spiderwick! Among the jobs he took before becoming a filmmaker are a meat packer, construction worker, factory worker, and nursing-home orderly.

SPIDERWICK Pink Revisions 9/9/06

OUTSIDE SPIDERWICK MANSION-NIGHT

Jared, Simon, Mallory, and their mother, Helen, have just driven up to the fading Victorian mansion.

HELEN: There it is. Pretty much how I remember it. I was younger than you last time I was here, Simon.

MALLORY: It's . . . (searching for a nice word) big.

SIMON: Yeah. So I can get bigger pets here. Right, Mom?

HELEN: Sure. Get a cow. Get a whole flock.

SIMON: Herd.

HELEN: That, too.



The Story





Imagine what it would be like to suddenly move from a modern city into an old, weathered Victorian mansion in the middle of a forest! Mallory and her younger twin brothers, Simon and Jared, had to do just that, and they weren't too thrilled about it. They preferred New York City, but their mom and dad had split up, and now Helen Grace was forced to accept an invitation to live in the home of a distant relative, her eighty-six-year-old Aunt Lucinda. Aunt Lucinda herself had just moved into a nursing home.

When Helen and her children entered the mansion, they began an adventure that would change all of their lives. It started with Jared hearing noises and getting into trouble for banging on the walls with a broom. Then he was blamed for stealing the car keys and Mallory's fencing medal, which mysteriously turned up in a dumbwaiter. Knowing he was innocent, Jared was determined to find out who the *real* culprit was.



Armed with a flashlight and a key he had found,



Jared crawled into the dumbwaiter and pulled himself up toward the noises in the walls. At the top he found a room that was jam-packed with microscopes, magnifying glasses, and natural specimens. The secret study had belonged to Aunt Lucinda's father, Arthur Spiderwick, who disappeared when his daughter was just six years old. It was in this study that Jared found an old, leatherbound book–*Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You.* Although Jared had been warned not to read the book, he did anyway. It explained the strange things that had happened!





Without intending to, Arthur Spiderwick revealed many secrets of the faerie world, and in so doing had created a dangerous document within that world. The *Field Guide* had been hidden, sealed, and protected for several decades until Jared came along and opened it.

At first Mallory and Simon didn't believe what

