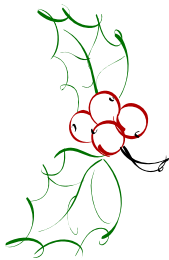


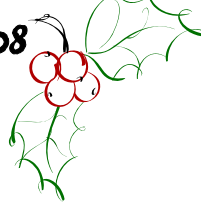
# WHAT THE RABBIT SAW

*A deleted scene from Gaia Girls Enter the Earth*



*Winter Solstice Gift from Lee Welles*

*December 21, 2008*



Elizabeth tip-toed across what used to be the barnyard of the Harrod Farm. Elizabeth had almost cried when she heard the Harrods were moving out. They had horses. Sometimes when she stayed over at Rachel's house, they would collect old apples and walk to the Harrod's pasture to visit with the horses.

For a while she stood in the dark, mission forgotten, and thought about Rachel and the way she would put her nose right up against the horses quivering nostrils and inhale deeply. "Ah!" she would always say, "Horse breath is the best smell in the world". Elizabeth thought it was a funny thing to say, but had to admit that it did smell kinda good.

A movement out of the corner of her eye brought her back to the present. A rabbit was making its way down the hedgerow. It paused to rise up its hind legs, quiver its nose a few times and then turned and dove into the underbrush. Elizabeth could see there were some old holes close to where the stable had stood. She knew that underground, there were bound to be many tunnels of the rabbit's warren.

*Poor rabbits, Elizabeth thought. First they tear down your hiding place and now I've got to get busy shaking things up!* She felt so bad about it; she sat down to think about what else she could do.

At the edge of the woods, another one of Harmony Farms mobile offices was parked. Elizabeth thought of the rabbits living in the ground. She stared at the trailer and thought about how wrong it was that these rabbits were probably going to die from all the manure and urine those pigs would make. Nothing would be able to live in the ground at the Harrods anymore.

As she stared at the sunny Harmony Farms logo, she felt a shudder go down through her and sensed it moving across the ground toward the trailer. Elizabeth jumped up, alarmed because she didn't know what would happen and she didn't want to hurt the rabbit warren.

The trees behind the trailer began to shake and twist like angry, arthritic hula girls! The maple to the left of the shed bent a great branch down and thrust it through the window. CRASH! The ash tree on the right did the same thing. The sound of the shattering seemed magnified by the darkness. Elizabeth was stunned and a little scared by what happened next.

With a terrific metallic groan, the trailer was lifted up about 20 feet! The trees then began to use their other branches to turn the trailer like a bead on a string. Faster and faster they spun the trailer until the Harmony Farms logo was looking a red and green and yellow stripe.

The noise was fantastic as the office furniture inside crashed about. Elizabeth didn't know whether to laugh or run. It might have lasted 10 seconds, it might have been 10 minutes, but finally trees set the trailer back down, right side up.

Then, the maple and the ash reached back behind and between them. Through the dark, sounding like the sharp rattle of gunshots, came the sound of snapping wood. *What now?* Was all Elizabeth had time to think before she saw what.

The maple and the ash now held a tremendous dead limb. They lifted it higher and higher, passing it up through their branches until Elizabeth had to crane her head back to see the dead branch silhouetted against the night sky. The dead branch rocked

three times and was tossed into the air. It spun as it fell directly down onto the roof of the trailer! The battered trailer flattened with a last, satisfying crunch.

The stillness that followed was almost as loud, broken only by Elizabeth exhaling for the first time in several minutes. She looked around in time to see the white flash of a fluffy, white cottontail disappearing down the hole where the stable used to be.

