

# The Griffin and the Minor Canon

Adaptation of an 1885  
Story by Frank R. Stockton  
Script by Mary Lucille DeBerry  
Animation by Brad Stalnaker

WNPB-TV  
West Virginia Public Broadcasting  
191 Scott Avenue  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
Phone: 304 - 284 -1440

Registration No. 735948  
Writers Guild of America - W

January 21, 1999

(Slightly revised and shortened during Production)

FADE IN:

**PRELUDE: SHADES OF GREY IN CONTRAST TO HUMAN TERRITORY**

EXT. - DREADFUL WILDS - CAVE - EARLY SUN. MORN - **APRIL 1** 1

SFX & MUSIC associated with the dreadful wilds.

QUICK CUTS:

CU (Close Up) Two large bird feet

CU Two large lion feet

CU A beak

CU Ears

CU A tail

MS (Medium Shot) THE GRIFFIN in front of his giant cave and its environs --  
located within a high terraced rock cliff and fronted by a wide rock ledge.

There are a few small trees and plants struggling to grow.  
He poses in a position similar to a bas relief statue to be seen later.  
His demeanor is mild. He yawns widely and rubs his chest as he becomes awake.

MS OS (Over-the-shoulder) shows the Griffin looking out on a wide view of a few scraggly trees on top of huge rocks sloping down to a turbulent mountain river.

CU The Griffin lumbers forward, moves upward slightly in flight, and disappears over the edge.

END QUICK CUTS

:25  
CUT TO:

EXT. - DREADFUL WILDS - STREAM - EARLY SUNDAY MORNING 2

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** MS The Griffin is far below his home on the stark riverbank in front of rock cliffs.

The monster trudges along the edge of the wild-water. While other creatures have always moved quickly around him, the pace of the Griffin is centuries slow.

NARRATOR

A long, long distance from a town, in  
the midst of dreadful wilds scarcely  
known to man, there dwelt a Griffin.  
He had traveled far and wide through the ages ...

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** The Griffin is leaning over the water, trying to see himself in the stream.

CU trace of a reflection in the water.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

... and as far as could be ascertained,  
he was the very last of his race.

THE GRIFFIN

(a bit mournful)

SFX: ChipChipChipChipChip .... Grrrr.

**ACTION:** A Bird lands beside him.

BIRD

What are you doing, Griffin? You are  
going to tumble into the stream!

THE GRIFFIN

(Grouchy)  
In all these years, I have never seen  
another griffin, and I am curious  
about my appearance.

**ACTION:** Two-shot as the bird, unafraid, gives advice.

BIRD  
Oh, Griffin. If you want to see  
yourself, all you have to do is fly to  
the town where the stone church bears  
your image.

THE GRIFFIN  
"The Dicken's" you say! How far away is  
the church? Give me directions, Bird.

BIRD  
It's way over the rock mountains,  
beyond steep forests. Past the  
foothills and farmers' fields.

**ACTION:** The Griffin prepares for his flight.

THE GRIFFIN  
I must go there.

**ACTION:** The monster flies up like a helicopter. The wind-blown Bird hovers nearby  
bracing herself against the wake of the Griffin's ascent. He hears the Bird calling after  
him.

BIRD  
The town lies along a river that flows  
through a green valley. It's filled with  
spring blossoms, pink and white.

MUSIC: Sweeping Opening Theme

**125**  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - PASSAGE THROUGH MOUNTAINS - SUNDAY MORNING 3  
**ACTION for "POST CARD OPENING": As the Griffin flies over rocks,  
mountains,  
foothills, fields and roadways, colors emerge. The human world is alive with  
color: many hues of green leaves along with delicate white and pink spring  
blossoms.**

**TITLE over montage**  
**"The Griffin and the Minor Canon"**  
**by Frank R. Stockton**

MONTAGE:           MUSIC : "The Griffin's Theme"

- 1) The Griffin flies over a river canyon: His view.
- 2) He flies over high rocks with one-sided trees.
- 3) He flies over a rock formation overlooking forests.

END MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO:

**"POST CARD OPENING" ACTION FOR NARRATION:**

The Griffin's grotesque appearance creates great consternation on the ground. As he flies low, his shadow goes right over some of the terrified people who are doing pre-church chores: feeding chickens and livestock. Some put their hands in front of their faces for protection. Others flatten their bodies upon the ground. Others run for shelter.

NARRATOR

The Griffin flew on and on until he  
came to the countries inhabited by men.

MUSIC SEGWAY: into Ecclesiastical Music

**205**  
DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - TOWN - CHURCH SANCTUARY - SUNDAY NOON

4

**:30**                   ECCLESIASTICAL MUSIC

QUICK CUTS:

- 1) WS (Wide Shot) The BISHOP, resplendent in golden robes, conducts the service for a congregation composed of about half the townspeople. The MINOR CANON stands off to the side in a subordinate position.
- 2) WS The Family -- MOTHER, FATHER, BIGGEST BOY and SMALL GIRL-- looks past THREE AGED WOMEN toward the front of the church.
- 3) MS The Bishop concludes the service and turns to the Minor Canon who hands him the grand crosier.
- 4) WS The Bishop moves majestically down the aisle toward the great door of the church.

END QUICK CUTS

ECCLESIASTICAL MUSIC UNDER

2:35  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - AERIAL OF COUNTRYSIDE - SUNDAY AFTERNOON 5

MUSIC: "The Griffin's Theme"

**ACTION:** The Griffin zooms low and the Sunday afternoon picnickers and strollers scatter as though an airplane were landing. The Griffin sees the pink and white blossoms and is certain he is near his destination. He calls loudly, over the commotion, to a man and woman running toward town. They run even faster.

NARRATOR

His great wings were tired, for he had not made such a long flight in a century, or more. But he alighted nowhere until he reached the edge of a town.

THE GRIFFIN

Wait! Excuse me!

**ACTION:** He sees a farmer distributing hay to his livestock. As the airborne Griffin calls to him, that man gestures menacingly with his pitchfork and exits quickly. The Griffin is perplexed.

THE GRIFFIN

Pardon me!  
I need directions.

3:00  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - MEADOW NEAR TOWN - SUNDAY AFTERNOON 6

**ACTION:** The Griffin temporarily gives up his quest for help and lands in a green meadow -- with a tree-line gliding into surrounding hills. He is beside a narrow stream where he sips clear water.

Two shot OS (over-the-shoulder) of Father and Biggest Boy who, after the church service and Sunday dinner, have walked out to check the fields. Upon realization that the Griffin is in the meadow, they are terribly scared and hide, crouching down behind a bush.

Father and Biggest Boy run.

The Griffin lifts his head and sees Father and Biggest Boy heading rapidly toward town.

CU Griffin's head

THE GRIFFIN

Stop!

**ACTION:** They look at each other; disobey; and continue running.

As the Griffin takes off in low flight, he has an overview -- from above and behind -- of Father and Biggest Boy running with their hair standing on end. The Griffin flies in front of them and lands on all four legs: eagle and lion. Two Shot of the faces of Father and Biggest Boy as they look at him. As The Griffin stands up on his hind legs, the camera pans up as they look up.

CU The Griffin's POV (point-of-view) looking down.  
Father and Biggest Boy stand trembling.

THE GRIFFIN

SFX: Grrrr ... ChipChipChip.

What is the matter with you all?

Is there not a man in your town who is  
brave enough to speak to me?

**ACTION:** Father and son exchange terrified glances.

FATHER

I think that -- that perhaps -- the  
Minor Canon -- would come.

THE GRIFFIN

Go, call him, then!

SFX: Grrrr ... ChipChipChipChip.

I want to see him

**3:50**  
CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - CHURCH - SUNDAY - EARLY EVENING

7

**ACTION:** WS similar to first WS. The church is empty except for Three Aged Women sitting on the front row and the Minor Canon who ends the service by closing his book of worship.

Father rushes into the church.

FATHER

Minor Canon! Minor Canon! It's a  
Griffin!

**ACTION:** CU The Three Aged Women giving them the evil eye for interrupting

the church service.

FATHER

Hurry to the meadow! A Griffin is here  
and wants to speak to you.

MINOR CANON

(amazed)

Me? He has never heard of me.

FATHER (This speech has been cut.)

Oh! You must go instantly! He is very  
angry because he has been kept waiting  
so long; and nobody knows what may  
happen if you don't hurry to him.

MINOR CANON

What should he want with me?

FATHER

He asked specifically for you.

**ACTION:** Pale and frightened, the Minor Canon takes a few steps toward the  
great front door.

Father exits down other aisle.

SOUND OF: Church Echoes as they exit.

FATHER

A Griffin! Spread the word. A Griffin  
is in the meadow!

**ACTION:** The Three Aged Women react behind him.

**425**  
CUT TO:

EXT - PATHWAY FROM TOWN TO MEADOW - SUNDAY EVENING

8

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon moves hesitantly.

MINOR CANON

(Thinks to himself)

I would rather have my hand cut off  
than go out to meet an angry griffin.  
It would be a woeful thing, though ...  
if injury should come to the people of  
the town because I am not brave enough

to obey his summons.

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon picks up his pace and walks rapidly toward the Griffin.

MINOR CANON

(Thinks to himself)

What if he wishes to eat our children?

If he does, he will want the good ones

I bet ... not the little ruffians I teach.

**4:50**

CUT TO:

EXT. - MEADOW NEAR TOWN - BESIDE BROOK - SUNDAY EVENING 9

**ACTION:** The Griffin cools his tail in the stream. He pulls it out and, tired after his long journey, lies down for a snooze.

**4:55**

CUT

TO:

EXT. - PATHWAY FROM TOWN TO MEADOW - SUNDAY EVENING 10

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon continues walking. Just as he crosses a wooden footbridge, he sees the Griffin.

SFX: Walking on wood planks

MINOR CANON

Uh! Oh!

**5:05**

CUT TO:

EXT. - MEADOW NEAR TOWN - BESIDE BROOK - SUNDAY EVENING 11

**ACTION:** The Griffin, who has been asleep, opens one eye as he hears the Minor Canon's reaction. He stretches upward and welcomes the visiting clergyman.

THE GRIFFIN

SFX: Grrrr ... ChipChipChip.

Well, I am glad to see there is someone who has the courage to come to me.

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon has a definite lack of courage, but he courteously bows his head in respect.

THE GRIFFIN

Is this the town where there is a church with a likeness of myself over one of the doors?

**ACTION: The sky is getting darker.**

The The Minor Canon peers intensely at the frightful creature before him. It is hard to see the Griffin standing against the greying landscape.

MINOR CANON

Yes. This is the place.

**ACTION: The sky darkens as evening approaches.**

THE GRIFFIN

(quite pleased)

Well, then, will you take me to it?  
I wish very much to see it.

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon moves his body uneasily because he knows that his words may enrage the monster. He also knows the townspeople need time to get used to this idea. He timidly attempts to appease and delay the Griffin.

MINOR CANON

It is growing dark now and objects on the front of the church cannot be seen clearly. If you wish to get a good view of the stone image of yourself, it will be better to wait until morning.

THE GRIFFIN

(Pause for deliberation and sizing up the Minor Canon)

I see you are a man of good sense. I am tired, and I will nap here on this soft grass, while I cool my tail in the little stream. The end of my tail gets red-hot when I am angry or excited, and it is quite warm now. But be sure and come early tomorrow morning, and show me the way to the church.

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon hurries into town. (Action has been cut.)

**6:05**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - MAIN STREET - SUNDAY EVENING

12

**ACTION:** As the Minor Canon enters town, he sees a hubbub of activity: people running with their belongings.

QUICK CUTS:

MS BUTCHER closes the shutters on his shop.

CU A woman's breath blows out a candle.

MCU A tradesperson's hands bolt his door.

MS The Bishop and two associates exit town.

END QUICK CUTS

**6:25**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - SUNDAY EVENING

13

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon walks toward the church steps and, from his POV, sees townspeople moving about in the shadows near the church. This crowd includes Mother, Father, Biggest Boy and Small Girl, VILLAGE COMPLAINER (COBBLER), the Butcher, Three Aged Women, MESSENGER #1, MESSENGER #2, MEDIUM-SIZED BOY and MEDIUM-SIZED GIRL, TWIN LITTLE BOY and TWIN LITTLE GIRL. A few, with torches and weapons, create the atmosphere of a lynch mob. Father is keeping watch for the Minor Canon.

FATHER

Gather around, everyone!

The Minor Canon is coming back! To the church! Hurry!

**ACTION:** The townspeople stop the Minor Canon as he reaches the lower steps of the church.

VILLAGE COMPLAINER

What is happening?

MOTHER

Are you hurt?

SENSIBLE AGED WOMAN

Is he going to kill us?

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon holds up his hands to quiet them.

MINOR CANON

I have talked with the Griffin. He has

come in peace. He has not come to spread ruin and devastation, but simply to see his stony likeness on the church.

STERN AGED WOMAN  
To see his likeness on the church?

MINOR CANON  
He will come to see it tomorrow.

VILLAGE COMPLAINER  
A likely story. He is probably preparing to devour our children right now.

7:00  
CUT TO:

EXT. - MEADOW - BESIDE BROOK - NIGHT 14

**ACTION:** The Griffin is resting much like a kitty cat with his legs up in the air. One leg twitches as he dreams.

7:05  
CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - SUNDAY EVENING 15

**ACTION:** Members of the crowd show neither relief or gratification, but begin to upbraid the Minor Canon for consenting to conduct the creature into town. They react noisily and move, with hostility, toward the young priest. The Village Complainer, especially, grows unruly.

VILLAGE COMPLAINER  
You shouldn't let him come to town

MINOR CANON  
What could I do? If I should not bring him, he would come himself and, perhaps, end by setting fire to the town with his red-hot tail. It gets very hot when he gets angry or excited.

SENSIBLE AGED WOMAN  
A lot of people are leaving.

LOVABLE AGED WOMAN  
Many of us are unable to leave!

VILLAGE COMPLAINER

He will steal our horses and burn our houses.

MOTHER

Or maybe even eat our children.

**ACTION:** Lovable Aged Woman swoons dramatically and is caught by the Butcher

LOVABLE AGED WOMAN

(fainting)

Ooooooooooh

VILLAGE COMPLAINER (Line cut)

The young men should go out and kill him!

BIGGEST BOY (Line cut)

He's a g-g-g-giant and a monster  
... We, we would have no chance!

MOTHER (Line cut)

That is a ridiculous idea!

MINOR CANON

Remember! He intends no ruin or devastation.

**ACTION:** The crowd confers and murmurs.

STERN AGED WOMAN

How can we be sure?

FATHER

Let's get rid of the stone image! Then he would have no excuse to enter town.

**ACTION:** The crowd receives this proposal favorably.

SFX: Crowd Cheers: "Yay! Yay! Yes! Yes!"

VILLAGE COMPLAINER

Grab your hammers and chisels, men!  
Get some ladders!

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon moves up the steps toward the door of the church. Many of the townspeople rush toward him with ladders, hammers,

chisels and crowbars with which to tear down and break up the stone griffin.

SFX: Crowd Noises: "Yes! Good Idea! Yay!"

**ACTION:** The dismayed Minor Canon tries to push the crowd back, but they shove him right up to the door.

MINOR CANON  
(Loudly above the crowd)  
You will only enrage the Griffin  
beyond measure. It would be  
impossible to conceal from him that  
his image had been destroyed during  
the night!

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon, arms stretched out horizontally, forms a human cross. He stands at the base of the great church door and resists this destructive plan with all the strength of his mind and body.

The townspeople are determined to break up the stone griffin. Zoom in on the Minor Canon.

MINOR CANON (cont'd)  
You will have to kill me before you  
harm this church.

**8:05**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - EARLY MONDAY MORNING - **APRIL 2** 16

**MONTAGE: (Can shorten)**

- 1) A staring contest begins as the Minor Canon faces down the crowd.
- 2) OS As time passes, all the townspeople look back at the Minor Canon. Some back down the steps.
- 3) MS Minor Canon confronts the Village Complainer who approaches with a chisel and primitive ladder.
- 4) The determined Minor Canon crosses his arms.
- 5) **The moon travels across the sky.**
- 6) OS Only a handful of townspeople remain. Eventually they give up and leave for home and needed sleep.
- 7) The Minor Canon remains at his post until dawn.
- 8) **As the sun comes up**, the sleep-deprived Minor Canon hurries off toward the meadow and the Griffin.

END MONTAGE

**8:40**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - MEADOW NEAR TOWN - BESIDE BROOK - MON. MORNING 17

**ACTION:** OS of the Griffin as he rises.

LS (Long Shot) as the Minor Canon walks down path.

THE GRIFFIN

(calls out affably)

Good Morning. I am ready to go to town!

8:50

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - TOWN - MAIN STREET - MONDAY MORNING 18

**ACTION:** The procession of two enters town. The Minor Canon leads the way. The Griffin follows along only a short distance behind his guide.

The streets are desolate although there are eyes peeping out from behind curtains and over windows sills.

9:00

CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - MONDAY MORNING TO SUNSET 19

MUSIC: "The Griffin's Theme"

**ACTION:** The duo progresses to the front of the church where the Minor Canon points out the statue.

CU of the large stone griffin **with April 2 shadows on the Stone Griffin and the little griffins.**

It has a large head, with enormous open mouth and savage teeth. From its back arise great wings, armed with sharp hooks and prongs. It has eagle's fore-legs with projecting claws. It has lion's legs behind and a long, powerful tail -- finished off at the end with a barbed point sticking up just behind its wings.

9:15

The Griffin elevates himself upright on his strong barbed tail and he wedges the point firmly in the ground. While doing this, he makes pleasurable Griffin noises and "Griffin faces" as if seeing himself in a mirror.

9:20

The Minor Canon walks around, observing.

9:25

MONTAGE:

- 1) The Griffin puts his head on one side.
- 2) Then he puts it on the other.
- 3) He shuts his right eye and gazes with his left.
- 4) Then he shuts his left eye and gazes with his right.

- 5) He moves a little to one side and looks at the image.
- 6) Then he moves the other way.

END MONTAGE

9:45

**ACTION:** The Griffin continues to stand face to face with the work of art.

MUSIC UNDER

THE GRIFFIN

It is, it must be, an excellent likeness!  
likeness! That breadth between the  
eyes, that expansive forehead, those  
massive jaws! I feel that it must  
resemble me

**ACTION:** As the Griffin speaks, the Minor Canon's head goes back and forth looking at the Griffin and at the stone image as though he were watching a tennis match.

THE GRIFFIN (cont'd) (First two lines cut)

If there is any fault to find with it,  
it is that the neck seems a little  
stiff. But that is nothing. It is an  
admirable likeness -- admirable!

10:07

**ACTION:** The Griffin remains in position. He enjoys looking at his image all morning and all afternoon.

The Minor Canon has stayed nearby and finally interrupts the Griffin's narcissistic activity.

THE GRIFFIN (cont'd)

SFX: Purrrrrr ... ChipChipChip.

MINOR CANON

Are you pleased with your image?

**ACTION:** MS doorway with the large stone griffin and little copies of it, also in stone, placed here and there along the sides of the church. (Action eliminated)

THE GRIFFIN

I am. The old-time sculptor did his  
work with great care.

MINOR CANON

You may wish to continue looking  
at the statue, Sir, but I am utterly

exhausted. I had no sleep last night  
and I am extremely hungry. Would you  
like something to eat?  
(Thinks to himself)  
Oh, dear! What if he wants half-a-  
dozen babies, or some tempting repast  
of that kind?

THE GRIFFIN

Oh, no. I never eat between the  
equinoxes. At the vernal and at the  
autumnal equinox I take a good meal,  
and that lasts me for half a year.  
I am extremely regular in my habits,  
and I do not think it healthful to eat  
at odd times. But if you need food, go  
and get it, and I will return to the  
soft grass and take another nap.

**ACTION:** The Griffin with a hint of a smile on his face flies off to his squatter's  
meadow. **10:55**

The Minor Canon walks from the church toward his quarters.

FADE OUT.  
**11:00**

FADE UP: EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - TUESDAY MORNING - **APRIL 3** 20

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon leaves his quarters and is surprised that the  
Griffin has returned.

The Griffin is in front of the church. He has dug his tail into the  
ground and is staring at his image.

The Minor Canon approaches the Griffin and looks up at him.  
The Griffin looks down.

MINOR CANON

Is everything all right?

THE GRIFFIN

Yes. Yes, it is.

MINOR CANON

I cannot stay with you today ...  
I have many duties to perform.

THE GRIFFIN

That is no problem. I am quite used

to being alone.

**11:20**  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - TOWN - MAIN STREET - DAY

21

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon starts down the street of the village and is waylaid by Mother and Small Girl.

MOTHER

How long is he going to stay?

MINOR CANON

I do not know, but I think he will soon be satisfied with regarding his stone likeness and then he will go.

(Under his breath)

I hope and pray ...

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon, deep in thought, looks up to sun.  
**The sun drops from the sky.**

FADE OUT.  
**11:40**

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - DAY - **JUNE 15**

22

MUSIC: "Life Going On" Theme  
Up and Under

**ACTION FOR NARRATION: Trees are leafing out.**

The Griffin flies to the front of the church and perches on his tail. Looking directly at his image, he adjusts his head to one side and to the other as he takes in now-familiar details.

NARRATOR

Morning after morning, the Griffin came to the church to look at his image. Morning and afternoon ...

**11:48**  
DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - TOWN - CHURCH SANCTUARY

23

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** The Minor Canon holds forth in an empty church.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

the Minor Canon held services ... but  
no one ever came.  
All the citizens who could afford it  
had traveled to distant parts, and  
only the working people and the poor  
were left behind. And they weren't  
brave enough to pass by the monster.

**12:00**  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - DAY - **JUNE 15**

24

**ACTION FOR NARRATION: Trees are in full leaf. The June 15 SHADOWS  
cast seasonal light on the Stone Griffin and the little griffins.**

The Minor Canon, carrying his bundle, exits from the church.

The Griffin, settled in a comfortable position looking at his image,  
sees and approaches the Minor Canon.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

The Griffin showed no signs of going  
away -- and he became more and more  
attached to the Minor Canon.

THE GRIFFIN

Good Morning, Minor Canon. What are  
you doing today?

MINOR CANON

My usual duties ...

THE GRIFFIN

May I tag along?

MINOR CANON (Last line cut)

Well ... try to be unobtrusive.  
Even though you eat only at the  
equinoxes, the townspeople are still  
afraid of you.

WIPE TO:

**ACTION:** The Griffin follows him as he pursues his various avocations.

MUSIC: "Life Goes On" Theme Up

**12:30**  
DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - TOWN - SICK OLD MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

25

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon reads to very ill man.

**1237**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - SICK OLD MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

26

**ACTION:** The curious Griffin looks down chimney.

**1240**  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - RIVER BANK AND SHANTIES - DAY

27

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon opens his bundle. He hands out long loaves of bread to the river poor.

RACK FOCUS TO:

The Griffin who sits on the river bank; splashes playfully; but observes carefully.

**12:48**  
DISSOLVE TO:

:  
INT. - TOWN - SCHOOL - DAY

28

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon teaches six "unruly scholars." When the Griffin peers through the window, the students become incredibly attentive.

**13:00**  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - ROAD FROM SCHOOL TO MINOR CANON'S ROOMS - EVE.

29

**ACTION:** As the Minor Canon leaves school that day, the Griffin trots along -- just as a pet would do.

MUSIC UNDER

THE GRIFFIN

Ohhh, I am tired. I have traveled more, this spring and summer, than I have in a hundred years.

**ACTION: The sky darkens into dusk.**

The Minor Canon arrives at his quarters. The Griffin is close behind and follows right up to the door.

MINOR CANON

I am tired too, Griffin.  
It has been another good day.

THE GRIFFIN

Yes, it has.

MINOR CANON

You and I have similar interests,  
but we come from entirely different  
worlds.

THE GRIFFIN

Minor Canon, we are more alike  
than you can dream. Fate has brought us  
together.

13:33

**(Quoting Hans Christian Andersen: )**

"Each one's life is a fairy tale  
written by the hand of God."

MINOR CANON

Good night, Griffin.

THE GRIFFIN

Good night, Minor Canon.  
(Chuckles about how good things  
are going.)

13:40

**ACTION:** The Griffin turns around like a dog; settles in a comfortable position;  
and sleeps.

13:45

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - TOWN - M.C.'S QUARTERS - NIGHT - **JUNE 15 thru AUGUST** 30

**ACTION: During these sequences, the Minor Canon thinks to himself. We do not see his lips moving.** The Minor Canon sits at his desk which holds half-a-dozen precious books. He writes in his meditation journal. As he finishes a paragraph, the camera pans over to the full-length candle illuminating the one colorful object in his quarters: **a Rhododendron Maximum or "Big Laurel" blossom in a vase.**

MINOR CANON

(Thinks to himself)  
June 15th ... This strange  
companionship, I find to be somewhat  
burdensome.  
On the other hand, I derive great  
benefit and instruction from it. The  
Griffin has lived for hundreds of  
years, and has seen much; and tells me

many wonderful things.

DISSOLVE TO:

**ACTION:** CU on a half-burned candle and a small bouquet of **Queen Anne's Lace** on his desk. Pull out to the priest who touches his books.

MINOR CANON (cont'd)

(Thinks to himself)

July 20th ... How many books I would have had to read before I would have found out what the Griffin has told me. He knows about the earth, the air, the water, about minerals, and metals, and growing things ... the words of philosophers ... and all the wonders of the world!

**14:30**

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - TOWN - MINOR CANON'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

31

**ACTION:** The Griffin sleeps soundly.

**14:35**

CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - MINOR CANON'S QUARTERS - NIGHT - **AUGUST 28**

32

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon, writing by light of a candle nub and with a sprig of **goldenrod** in his vase, lifts his pen.

MINOR CANON

(Worried -- Thinks to himself)

August 28th ... The Griffin is sleeping more and more each day. It will not be long before the autumnal equinox is here. The townspeople are concerned and so am I.

**14:50**

FADE OUT.

FADE UP. EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - DAY - **SEPTEMBER 1**

33

**ACTION:** The Griffin is in a seated position looking at his image. He almost ignores the Minor Canon.

MINOR CANON

Are you not coming along today?

THE GRIFFIN

I feel a bit poorly: I think I will  
just stay here for awhile.

15:00

EXT. - TOWN - STREET: CHURCH TO TOWN HALL

34

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon walks away from the church toward the town hall.  
A committee of three stops the Minor Canon.

FATHER

It is almost time, Minor Canon, for  
the Griffin to eat!

MOTHER

He will be dreadfully hungry, for  
he has taken so much exercise since his  
last meal.

VILLAGE COMPLAINER

He will devour our children.

**ACTION:** The committee closes in on the Minor Canon.

The Minor Canon is almost crushed and his facial expression indicates  
puzzlement.

MINOR CANON

What can I do?

FATHER

It is your duty to go away and then he  
will follow you, and we shall be free  
from the dreadful danger which hangs  
over us.

MINOR CANON (Speech cut)

Go away! Where shall I go? If I go to  
some other town, shall I not take this  
trouble there? Have I a right to do  
that?

MOTHER (Speech cut)

No, you must not go to any other town.  
There is no town far enough away.

VILLAGE COMPLAINER

You must go to the dreadful wilds  
where the Griffin lives; and then he

will follow you and stay there.

MINOR CANON

Who will conduct the church services?

MOTHER

It doesn't matter as long as the Griffin sits outside the front door.

MINOR CANON

Who will help those in need?

FATHER

There won't be anyone in need if you don't go. It is your highest duty to save our lives.

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon dismisses the committee.

MINOR CANON

Today, I have my duties to perform.

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon walks away from the onslaught.

**15:40**

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - TOWN - MINOR CANON'S QUARTERS - PRE-DAWN - **SEPT. 2** 35

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon leaves home under cover of night. He has bread and dried meat in a leather bag; a canteen; and his daily meditation book with writing utensils.

**The moon lights his way.**

**16:48**

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - PASSAGE THROUGH MOUNTAINS - DAWN TO DUSK - **SEPT. 2-6** 36

MUSIC: - "Minor Canon's Pilgrimage"  
With SFX: Mountain Life

**ACTION:** **The sun rises over the mountains.** As the Minor Canon progresses, his pace slows and he leans more heavily on his walking staff.

**Leaves are dropping from the trees. The season changes from summer to fall, even more quickly in the mountains. The vibrant colors of the environs of town gradually turn to browns and sepias. Dusk descends.**

MUSIC Segway

16:00

MORPH (CHANGE) TO:

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - MORNING - **SEPTEMBER 11**

37

MUSIC: "Life Going On" Theme but slower

**ACTION: Leaves on the hardwood trees by the church turn and fall as do the trees on the Minor Canon's route but the colors in town remain vivid -- WITH September 11 light casting a seasonal light on the Stone Griffin and the little griffins.**

16:10

The Griffin sits up on his tail; looks at his image; and then looks all around the town.

MUSIC UNDER

THE GRIFFIN

I have not seen the Minor Canon for a while.  
(Annoyed and mostly to himself)  
Where in the thunder is he?

SFX: Grrrr ... Chip.

16:20

CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - SCHOOL - MORNING - **SEPTEMBER 12**

38

**ACTION:** CU bell tower. Pan down in front of the school where the Griffin is exploring.

THE GRIFFIN

It is a shame that everything should suffer on account of the young man's absence. It does not matter so much about the church for nobody went there; but it is a pity about the school. I think I will teach it myself until he returns.

16:40

CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - FOYER OF SCHOOL - MORNING

39

**ACTION:** The Griffin awkwardly goes through the door. He pulls the rope away from directly under the bell. Cheered by the thought of this new adventure, he pulls down on the rope somewhat hesitantly. He likes the feel of it and displays his enjoyment.

SFX: BELL

16:55

CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - CLASSROOM OF SCHOOL - MORNING

40

**ACTION:** The Griffin climbs, with great effort, into the headmaster's seat. Because he cannot lean back in the chair with his wings stuck out behind him, he spreads them wide, reaching almost room-width. His great tail is coiled in front of the desk with the barbed end sticking up ready to tap any misbehaving boy or girl.

Six children -- Biggest Boy, Medium-Sized Boy, Little Twin Boy, Smallest Girl, Little Twin Girl and Medium-Sized Girl -- rush inside. They see the new teacher but realize they can't run away.

It is not wise, they know, to refuse a Griffin's request. They scramble to their seats. Each sits at absolute attention. Never was seen such an orderly school. Not a boy or girl moves or utters a whisper.

The Griffin addresses the scholars. He tries hard to imitate the mild and gentle tones of the Minor Canon, but he isn't tremendously successful. **17:10**

THE GRIFFIN

Just because the Minor Canon is gone,  
you cannot neglect your education. I  
will teach you while your schoolmaster  
is away. First, a review: What subjects  
have you studied?

**ACTION:** The children are all immeasurably shy and still extremely frightened.

MEDIUM-SIZED BOY

We have studied arithmetic.

LITTLE TWIN GIRL

And Latin.

SMALL GIRL

And Mythology.

**ACTION:** The Griffin's eyes light up.

He points his talon toward Medium-Sized Girl and, with it, indicates that she should recite.

THE GRIFFIN

Ah-aaaah. My favorite subject. Name  
three mythological creatures.

MEDIUM-SIZED GIRL

Unicorns ... and Dragons ... and ...

THE GRIFFIN

Aaaaand?

MEDIUM-SIZED GIRL

(Apprehensive)

Griffins?

THE GRIFFIN

That's very good. Since you mentioned Griffins, let us go over what you have learned about my species. We will start with the student who is at the tail of the class.

**ACTION:** All the other children look at Biggest Boy. The Griffin, with his tail, taps Biggest Boy on the shoulder.

Biggest Boy stands to recite and racks his brain to remember what he has learned. He is so afraid of the Griffin's displeasure that he recites as he has never recited before. He does, however, have a nervous stammer.

BIGGEST BOY

You, sir, have the majestic face,  
claws and wings of an eagle.  
You have the body and heart of a lion.  
You symbolize knowledge and truth.  
Some say your feathers have the power  
to heal ...  
(One last point for good measure)  
Aa-aa-and you like to eat horses!

**ACTION:** The children and the Griffin are astonished.

THE GRIFFIN

(Benevolent)

I am sure you never have been in the habit of reciting so well. Why is this?

BIGGEST BOY

(Trembling but truthful)

(Scared)

Because you are twelve feet tall and could eat me.

(Defensive)

Besides, they don't expect brilliance from us "unruly children,"

(Admitting)

And because, I did not choose to take  
the t-t-trouble.

THE GRIFFIN

You ought to be ashamed of yourself.  
If you are not at the head of the  
class in two days, I shall know the  
reason why.

(Sternly to entire class)

Now, all of you, study at home tonight  
and return tomorrow -- on time! Class  
dismissed.

**18:45**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - FRONT OF SCHOOL - DAY

41

**ACTION:** The children run toward their homes.  
The Griffin comes to the door and smiles.

THE GRIFFIN

Now, I must help the poor and visit  
the sick.

**18:55**  
CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - RIVERSIDE - DAY

42

MUSIC: "Life Going On" Theme

**ACTION:** ZOOM IN as the Griffin reaches the river and spots POOR MAN  
(A STOCKING WEAVER) lying under a tree. The flurry of the Griffin's arrival  
wakes him.

THE GRIFFIN

SFX: Grrrr ... Chip.  
Do you have a trade?

STOCKING WEAVER

Yes. I'm a stocking weaver. But I  
don't weave much any more.

THE GRIFFIN

How do you eat?

STOCKING WEAVER

The Minor Canon brings me food.

**ACTION:** The Griffin is incensed and his tail is glowing. He gets in a beak-to-nose position with the Poor Man.

THE GRIFFIN

I am now performing the Minor Canon's duties, and there will be no food given to the able. You go into town as everyone else has done -- and ply your trade. In return for new stockings, each person will give you a meal and that will get you through the winter. Next spring, you plant a garden AND start making everyone more stockings.

**ACTION:** Poor Man feeling the heat of a waving tail, heads toward town. The Griffin preens and brags about his success.

THE GRIFFIN

Ahh! The poor have utterly disappeared. They just needed motivation.

**ACTION:** The Griffin takes off in flight toward town.

**1935**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN - MAIN STREET - DAY (Scene eliminated)

43

**ACTION:** Lovable Aged Woman sweeps her stoop and her next-door neighbor, Messenger #2, sits in front of his house -- slumped in his chair, covered with shawl.

SFX: Flapping of wings as the Griffin lands:Flrrrp Flrrrp

THE GRIFFIN

Now it is time to tend to the sick.

**ACTION:** They hear the Griffin. The old man casts his shawl aside; kicks up his heels; and proclaims loudly the quality of his health. He shouts to his neighbor, mainly for the Griffin's benefit, and grabs her broom. They have a small tug-of-war over possession of that object.

MESSENGER #2

I am well! No rheumatiz at all. I have no aches or pains.

**ACTION:** The Griffin, pleased, turns to go on down the street.

**19:50**  
CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - SICK MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

44

**ACTION:** The Griffin moves through the door and goes directly to the shaking bedridden patient.

THE GRIFFIN  
(gently)  
I am here to help you. I am here --  
instead of the Minor Canon.

**ACTION:** The Griffin takes Sick Old Man's pulse and looks at his tongue.

THE GRIFFIN  
Say "Ahhhh".  
Hmmm. Herb tea will do the trick.

**ACTION:** The Griffin pulls out herbs from a tightly-woven grapevine pouch, reminiscent of a bird's nest, that he has hidden underneath his wing.

CU on his talons as he puts leaves in a drinking bowl; picks up the tea kettle hanging over an inactive hearth; and pours water over the herbs.

With a flourish, the Griffin removes a wing feather from his body & uses it to stir the potion.

CU of his tail as he heats the bowl.

Wider shot as the Griffin steadies the cup with his talons so the patient can drink it.

Sick Old Man reluctantly takes one sip and makes a terrible face. However, he is grateful for the help.

SICK OLD MAN  
Thank you, Griffin.

**ACTION:** The Griffin tenderly pats the Sick Old Man.

**20:30**  
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - DREADFUL WILDS - DAY - **SEPTEMBER 12**

45

SOUND OF: Minor Canon's Pilgrimage Music

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon, now quite weak, half climbs, half crawls up a narrow path between rocks. With great effort, he reaches the high rock cliffs and collapses.

MUSIC UNDER

**20:40**  
CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - TOWN HALL - NIGHT - **SEPTEMBER 12**

46

**ACTION:** The citizens -- including Mother, Father, Biggest Boy and Small Girl; Three Aged Women; the Village Complainer; the Butcher; Messengers #1 and #2; poor men and others -- are in a state of great alarm and anxiety. They sit in a semi-circle and try to solve the problems created by the Griffin's presence.

VILLAGE COMPLAINER

That Griffin shows no sign of leaving.

FATHER

And it is almost time for his semi-annual meal.

MOTHER

He will be extremely hungry.  
He might devour all our children at any moment.

**21:00**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - MEADOW NEAR TOWN - BESIDE BROOK - SUNDAY EVENING 47

**ACTION:** The Griffin is asleep by the stream.

**21:05**  
CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - TOWN HALL - NIGHT  
48

SENSIBLE AGED WOMAN

We shouldn't have sent the Minor Canon to the dreadful wilds.

FATHER

He could have talked with the Griffin and solved this problem.

VILLAGE COMPLAINER

Well, we have the problem and we had better solve it.

**ACTION:** The Father takes charge and points to the two most expendable citizens: Messenger #1 and Messenger #2.

FATHER

You two: go and talk to the Griffin.

**21:20**  
DISSOLVE

TO:

**ACTION:** WS as the two old men go to the Griffin who, of course, is admiring his image.

MESSENGER #1

Excuse us.

MESSENGER #2

We have a proposition. You are going to be hungry soon.

MESSENGER #1

We would like to prepare a splendid dinner for you on equinox day -- to entirely satisfy your hunger.

MESSENGER #2

We will cook the fattest mutton, the most tender beef, fish and game of various sorts, and anything of the kind that you might fancy. If none of this suits you, perhaps you would like directions to the orphan asylum.

**ACTION:** The Griffin displays his fierceness.

THE GRIFFIN

SFX: Grrrr-rrrr-rr ... ChipChipChipChip.

From what I have seen of the people of this town, I do not think I could relish anything prepared by you. All of you appear to be cowards and, therefore, mean and selfish. As for eating any one of you, old or young, I could not think of it for a moment.

(somewhat calmer)

In fact, there was only one creature in the whole place for whom I could have had any appetite, and that was the Minor Canon who has gone away. He was brave, and good, and honest, and I think I should have relished him.

SFX: Grrrr-rr ... ChipChipChip.

MESSENGER #1

(very politely - letting the truth slip out.)  
Ah! In that case I wish we had not  
sent him to the dreadful wilds!

**ACTION:** The Griffin is furiously angry.

MUSIC: Swells in background

THE GRIFFIN

SFX: Grrrr-rrrr-rr ... ChipChipChip.  
What! What do you mean?  
Explain instantly what you are talking  
about!

**ACTION:** The elderly blabbermouth is terribly frightened, but he is obliged  
to answer the Griffin.

MESSENGER #2

Well, ah, hem, uh, we sent the Minor  
Canon away to the dreadful wilds -- in  
the hope that you might be induced to  
follow him.

**ACTION: Clouds roll in. Darkness descends.** (The swoop is eliminated.)

The Griffin becomes more fierce than ever imagined. He dashes away  
from the old men; spreads his wings; and swoops down near the old men as they  
put their hands up in front of their faces for protection.

The Griffin is so much excited that his tail becomes red hot and glows  
like a meteor against the darkened afternoon sky.

THE GRIFFIN

(huge roar)

SFX: Grrrr-rrrr-rr, Grrrr-rrrr-rr ...  
Grrrr-rrrr-rrrr-rr ... Chip! Grrrr-  
rrrr-rr ... Grrrr-rrrr-rr. Grrrr-rrrr.

**22:50**  
CUT

TO:

EXT. - ABOVE TOWN - EVENING

50

**ACTION:** He dashes away from the old men. He spreads his wings and flies  
backward and forward over the town:

QUICK CUTS:

CU Townsperson looking out window  
MS Interior, as if could see through wall, family getting  
dressed for meeting  
MS People going to the town hall

END QUICK CUTS

THE GRIFFIN

Attention! Everyone! A meeting --  
right now! Come to the town hall.  
Immediately! Everyone.

SFX: Grrrr ... ChipChip. Grrrr ...  
ChipChip. Grrrr ... Chip Chip.

**23:05**  
CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN - TOWN HALL - NIGHT  
51

**ACTION:** The townspeople crowd into the town hall.

The Griffin is on the platform at one end, flapping his wings and walking  
up and down.

With trepidation, the townspeople are attentive.

The Griffin addresses the meeting.

Shots alternate between the Griffin and audience.

THE GRIFFIN

SFX: Grrrr-rrrr-rr...Chip!  
Grrrr-rrrr-rrrr...Chip.  
Grrrr-rrrr ... ChipChipChip.

I have had a contemptible opinion of  
you -- But I had no idea that you  
were so ungrateful, selfish, and cruel  
as I now find you to. Here was  
your Minor Canon, who labored day and  
night for your good -- and as soon as  
you imagine yourselves threatened with  
a danger -- you send him off, caring  
not whether he returns or perishes,  
hoping thereby to save yourselves.

SFX: Grrrr-rrrr-rr ... ChipChipChip  
Grrrr-rrrr-rr Chip.

**ACTION:** The townspeople cower before the Griffin.  
The monster again becomes riled up. The color of his tail evolves into a brilliant red.

THE GRIFFIN (cont'd)  
(In an ominous voice)  
There were only two good things in this town: the Minor Canon and the stone image of myself over your church door. One of these you have sent away, and the other I shall carry away myself.

SFX: Grrrr-rrrr-rrrr ... ChipChipChip! (Cut)

**ACTION:** The Griffin is extremely agitated and the end of his tail is so hot that there is danger of its setting fire to the building.

THE GRIFFIN (cont'd)  
Now. I never want to see any of you again. Beware of my terrible vengeance!

SFX: Poof!

**ACTION:** The curtain catches fire as the Griffin's tail hits it. With his lion's foot, he stomps out the flame and gallops down the aisle.

SFX: Grrrr-rrrr ... ChipChipChipChipChip

**23:55**

**ACTION:** The townspeople cower as he exits.

**24:00**

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - MORNING - **SEPTEMBER 14**

52

**ACTION:** The Griffin comes to the church. Tearing the stone image of himself from its fastenings over the great door, he grasps it with his powerful fore-legs and flies up into the air.

MUSIC: "Tumultuous Event"

He hovers over the town for a moment, gives his tail an angry shake and takes up his flight to the dreadful wilds. The empty town is filled with echoes of the Griffin's terrifying roars.

THE GRIFFIN  
SFX: Grrrr-rrrr-rrrr-rr ... Chip! ChipChip-  
ChipChip! Grrrr-rr ... ChipChipChip!

**24:30**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - DREADFUL WILDS - DAY - **SEPTEMBER 14**

53

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon falls to the ground. Bird flies down, perches on his fallen staff and curiously stretches her neck in and out toward the stranger

**23:38**  
CUT TO:

EXT. - DREADFUL WILDS - EVENING

54

**ACTION:** The Griffin sits in front of his dismal cave in the midst of the dreadful wilds. He has placed the stone griffin upon the rock ledge above his home. There, the image occupies a position somewhat similar to that it had had over the church door. The Griffin, pants with the exertion of carrying such an enormous load so great a distance. He lays down upon the ground and regards the stone image with much satisfaction.

THE GRIFFIN  
SFX: (Pant) Hahhhh, Hahhhh, Hahhhh.

**24:45**  
CUT TO:

EXT . - DREADFUL WILDS - CLIFF TO CAVE - DAWN - **SEPT. 14**

55

QUICK CUTS:

- 1) **A misty rain begins to fall** and the Minor Canon, with great effort, pulls himself to a sitting position.
- 2) MS of the Minor Canon's back. He looks out on a breathtaking river-gorge view.  
He knows this is the last sight he will see.
- 3) Profile of the Minor Canon as he slumps forward.
- 4) He tumbles, head first, off the cliff.  
MUSIC: "The Griffin's Theme"
- 5) Out of top of frame, an eagle claw reaches down and grabs the Minor Canon by the foot.
- 6) From the Griffin's POV, he looks down on a rudely awakened and surprised Minor Canon.
- 7) The Griffin flies with the Minor Canon to his Cave.

END QUICK CUTS

**25:10**  
CUT TO:

**ACTION:** The cave is black. Characters are in silhouette. Grays and Blues predominate. The Minor Canon is extremely weak. The Griffin makes his patient as comfortable as possible.

THE GRIFFIN

These herbs and roots will give you strength and make you well.

**ACTION:** The Griffin gives the Minor Canon medicine.

THE GRIFFIN

Do you know that I have had, and still have, a great liking for you?

MINOR CANON

(politely)

I am very glad to hear it.

THE GRIFFIN

I am not at all sure that you would be if you thoroughly understood the state of the case, but we will not consider that. If some things were different, other things would be otherwise.

**ACTION:** The Griffin's tail glows as if it were a camp fire -- illuminating the interior of the cave and warming the Minor Canon. **Warm colors, oranges and reds, emerge.**

THE GRIFFIN (cont'd)

I have been so enraged by discovering the manner in which you have been treated that I have determined that you shall at last enjoy the rewards and honors to which you are entitled. Lie down now and have a good sleep.

SFX: Grrrr ... Chip. (Cut)

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon, a bit puzzled but totally exhausted, falls asleep.

**25:50**

DISSOLVE TO:

**ACTION:** The Griffin picks up the Minor Canon and flies him back to the town.  
**As they fly, rain changes to white-clouded sky.** **25:55**

LONG DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - MEADOW BESIDE BROOK - DAYBREAK - **SEPTEMBER 16** 58

**ACTION:** The Griffin lands in the meadow and places the young man in the little field. It is almost as though the Griffin has hypnotized the Minor Canon.

CU The Griffin's talon placing a new walking staff next to the Minor Canon. It has a small circle of the Griffin's eagle feathers tied, with vine, at the base of a natural knob.

THE GRIFFIN

I have lived a long, good life -- and  
want you to do the same. Remember,  
**(Quoting Kirk Judd:)**  
"Nothing loved dies."

**ACTION:** The Minor Canon wakes as the Griffin flies away. He looks around and realizes he is almost home.

**21:15**

LONG DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - MORNING

59

MUSIC: "Life/Death Theme" Underneath to END OF SCRIPT

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** The Minor Canon, weak and leaning on his staff, walks to the church.

**.26:21**

Many townspeople, relieved and joyful, rush toward him with outstretched hands of welcome. They are gracious to the Minor Canon and lead him to the Bishop's grand dwelling.

**26:25**

NARRATOR

During the first years after his  
return from the dreadful wilds, the  
people of the town looked up to the  
Minor Canon ...

**26:32**

LONG DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - DREADFUL WILDS - CAVE - DAY

60

**ACTION:** The Griffin is chilling. He touches his fevered forehead, then hangs his head and clutches his hunger-panged stomach.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

... but they often, also, looked up to the sky to see if there were any signs of the Griffin coming back.

**26:42**  
DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - TOWN - FAMILY'S HOME - EVENING - **SEPTEMBER 22** 61

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** Father and Mother, with Biggest Boy and Little Girl present, are serving the saddened Minor Canon an evening meal.

NARRATOR (cont'd)  
However, in the course of time, they learned to honor and reverence the Minor Canon without fear of being punished if they did not do so.

**26:52**  
LONG DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - DREADFUL WILDS - CAVE - DAY - **SEPTEMBER 23** 62

MUSIC: "Life/Death Theme" Crescendos

**ACTION:** The Griffin falls and hits the ground.

SOUND OF: Thud

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** WS The Griffin is lying in the foreground while the statue above the cave is in the background. His eyes are fixed upon the stone image.

NARRATOR (cont'd)  
But they need never have been afraid of the Griffin. The autumnal equinox day came round, and the monster ate nothing. If he could not have the Minor Canon, he did not care for anything.

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** The camera dollies around to show CU of the Griffin's head. The Griffin's eye looks up at the stone image.

NARRATOR (cont'd)  
So, lying down, with his eyes fixed upon the great stone griffin, he gradually declined and died.

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** His eye closes.

NARRATOR (cont'd)  
It was a good thing for some of the  
people of the town that they did not  
know this.

27:17  
DISSOLVE TO:

INT./EXT. - TOWN - CHURCH - SUNDAY MORNING - **LATER**

63

MUSIC ONLY: Without wind; More organ

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** As he stands at the pulpit, the Minor Canon ...

MORPH TO:

... ages 30 years. His hair becomes thinner and grey; he gains a little weight; and he moves slightly slower. His clothes become finer in quality and brighter in color but not nearly as ornate as the previous bishop. His walking staff turns into a crosier.

NARRATOR (cont'd)  
The Minor Canon was appointed to the  
highest office of the old church ...  
and became a bishop. The people  
crowded in when he held services.

**ACTION:** WS Church filled with people. Camera is at back of the church -- duplicating the shot from beginning.

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** The Minor Canon conducts the service. The pews are full. Camera pulls back showing just the edges of the door and a wider shot of the service. Camera pulls back further to show a MS of exterior sides of church with the little Griffins still lined up, clean and shining.

NARRATOR (cont'd)  
If you should ever visit the old town,  
you would still see the little  
griffins on the sides of the church;

**ACTION FOR NARRATION:** Camera pans up above the door where the great stone griffin had been but is no more.

NARRATOR (cont'd)  
but the great stone griffin that was  
over the door is gone.

MUSIC SWELLS "Life Goes On" / Pilgrimage / Death / Resurrection

**ACTION:** Camera zooms into a plaque nestled into the rubble left by the removal of the stone griffin. It reads: "Nothing Loved Dies."

**Quoting Kirk Judd) 27:47**

**FADE OUT.**

SOUND OF: Wind against rocks within the music

FADE UP. EXT. - DREADFUL WILDS - CAVE - DAY

64

### **TITLES OVER THE GRIFFIN**

**ACTION:** He "becomes part of the ages."

The Griffin's skin becomes more and more translucent and his bones are clearly visible.

DISSOLVE TO:

His bones push down and sink into the rock itself.

DISSOLVE TO:

Finally the rock becomes layered over with dust.

### **TITLES**

**Include quotes and acknowledgement of quotes  
to Hans Christian Andersen and Kirk Judd**

**End with Copyright.**

MUSIC UNDER

**28:46**  
**FADE TO BLACK.**

The end