

OFELIA'S FAIRY

In Guillermo Del Toro's film, *Pan's Labrynth*, there is a scene where the main character, a little girl named Ofelia, drops her books and runs up to a somewhat-odd-looking stick bug. This may not be astonishing in itself, but in an earlier scene, her first in fact, we are led to believe that she cherishes her books—they are fantasy books about fairies—we see her carefully handling the pages, lovingly stroking the illustrations; her mother gently suggests that she's too old for fairytales, but Ofelia only smiles. A moment later, the car they are in stops and Ofelia wanders into the forest a bit, and through a strange set of circumstances sees an odd bug. She says nothing, but we can see that she is inquisitive and suspicious of the bug's true identity, because it is just a bit more than ordinary. Later, after they've arrived at their destination, and she is clutching her precious books protectively to herself in this strange, unwelcoming new environment, she sees it again, a few feet away on a rock. It does not resemble the illustrations in body, but she drops her books, runs directly up to it and speaks to it.

I admit, I am worried that many Christians today are so attached to their Bibles they would not recognize God if he appeared before them. I am worried that they (maybe I ought to say “we”) are so bent on understanding perfectly each letter of our sacred text that we will wait forever for what we expect to see, and miss what truly comprises the personality of God. I worry that perhaps God appears every day, and some days I miss him because I’m too busy, reading my Bible.

God bless Ofelia for having the gumption to ask her vision what it was:

“Did you follow me here? Are you a fairy?”