

Pans Labyrinth

Storyline

In 1944 fascist Spain, a girl, fascinated with fairy-tales, is sent along with her pregnant mother to live with her new stepfather, a ruthless captain of the Spanish army. During the night, she meets a fairy who takes her to an old faun in the center of the labyrinth. He tells her she's a princess, but must prove her royalty by surviving three gruesome tasks. If she fails, she will never prove herself to be the true princess and will never see her real father, the king, again.

Plot Summary

This is the story about a young girl... and the fantasy world she created, to survive the harsh reality... This movie teaches us how children survive the real world, which they are not prepared for, and how adults forgotten this ability, disregard it as nothing, missing its "power"...

In 1944, in the post-Civil War in Spain, rebels still fight in the mountains against the fascist troops. The young and imaginative Ofelia travels with her pregnant and sick mother Carmen Vidal to the country

to meet and live with her stepfather, the sadistic and cruel Captain Vidal, in an old mill. During the night, Ofelia meets a fairy and together they go to a pit in the center of a maze where they meet a faun that tells that she is a princess from a kingdom in the underground. He also tells that her father is waiting for her, but she needs to accomplish three gruesome, tough and dangerous assignments first. Meanwhile, she becomes friend of the servant Mercedes, who is the sister of one of the rebels and actually is giving support to the group. In a dark, harsh and violent world, Ofelia lives her magical world trying to survive her tasks and sees her father and king again.

Ofelia's love of fairy tales is obvious from the beginning of El Laberinto del fauno. Set in the not so tranquil Spanish woodlands of World War Two, where a small band of anti-fascism rebels are hiding out. This is where Ofelia and her pregnant mother have come to live, in the company of Capitán Vidal, Ofelia's new stepfather and soon to be father of her half-brother. It is with the brutal, unforgiving and totalitarian

idealist Capitán Vidal, and his fascist troops, who must weed out these resistance fighters of the hills and woods, that Ofelia finds her release and distraction of the new world order and its warring factions and delves into the older, mysterious and enchanting world of fairies, faun's and giant frogs. Beautiful, charming, graphic and deadly. El Laberinto del fauno.

Source:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0457430/plotsummary>

World War II : 1939-1945

Spanish Civil War : 1936-1939

Started with a coup against the government. The coup had a lot of support and in the end was partially successful and left the country divided militarily and politically. After that Francisco Franco headed up a war against the established government. Nazi Germany and the Kingdom of Italy supported Franco (Nationalists) while Soviet Union and Mexico intervened on behalf of the Republican Government.

Nationalists won and overthrew the government. Franco ruled from 1939-1975 when he died.

The **bombing of Guernica** (April 26, 1937) was an [aerial attack](#) on the [Basque](#) town of [Guernica, Spain](#), causing widespread destruction and civilian deaths, during the [Spanish Civil War](#).

The number of victims of the attack is disputed; The Basque government reported 1,654 people killed, but modern speculations suggests between 200 to 400 civilians died. Russian archives reveal 800 deaths on May 1, 1937, but this number may not include victims who later died of their injuries in hospitals or whose bodies were discovered buried in the rubble. The bombing has often been considered one of the first raids in the history of modern military aviation on a defenceless civilian population, and denounced as a terrorist act, although the capital (Madrid) had been bombed many times previously. The bombing was the subject of a [famous anti-war painting](#) by [Pablo Picasso](#). (Guernica)

Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing_of_Guernica