

Iesha

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There once was a world not so different to ours but as if more extreme, a world where one foot even slightly out of line could cost you your life, where the government had absolute control over everyone and anything, where the soldiers have been genetically enhanced so that they will follow and fight for the people in power while having absolutely no freedom to themselves and only exist to fight for The Power.

And in this world, there existed a girl who had a strong lack of respect for anyone in power or anyone with any sense of authority. Whether they were particularly good or not was irrelevant to her. She did not like to be told what to do. Her and her family were the poorest of the poor in this world and, therefore, were under the most scrutiny by the power. This girl's name was Iesha and this story starts when she was walking to the market one cold morning – the climate engineered by The Power to be cold, so people avoid the market.

As she walked outside the exit of her sector, she saw a woman who she knew her entire life, blood pouring out of her mouth and chunks of hair

having been dragged out. The woman was trying to scream but did not have the energy so she let out dry whispers.

Iesha ran as fast as she could over to her and asked what had happened. She let out yelps - "Please, we can't live like this. Please escape, for your sake Iesha."

Iesha without even saying a word ran towards the market to ask what had happened. She heard various different stories but they all generally agreed on one thing - the woman gave too little money to the butcher, out of confusion, and the guards overheard the small argument between the butcher and the woman and started trying to find out what had happened in the most aggressive way they could. When they found out the woman hadn't paid enough they took her outside and dragged her by her hair and attacked her repeatedly, until the butcher ran over and told them to stop. He told them that he'd pay the money himself. But the guards continued to attack her for another five minutes and then, eventually, stopped said if anyone was to help her up they would get the same treatment. So she was forced to crawl home.

When Iesha heard this story she was filled with rage and immediately stormed towards the butcher's and grabbed money out of the box where the butcher kept his earnings. She said, "This is going to where it belongs!" in a very serious tone, with her face making absolutely no expression. The butcher started to beg her for the money bag as she ran towards her sector, on her way to give the money to the woman. As he ran after her, everyone in the market took advantage of there not being anyone in the butcher's and took as much as they could carry.

The butcher, who was in no shape to be running at the speed he was starting to run, ran out of energy and started to beg Iesha to give him his money. He was saying that his daughter was sick and dying. This did not phase Iesha and she got to the old woman who was now sitting against a wall rather than crawling or lying on the floor. Iesha gave her the money, which

she was happy with. She did not know where it came from but she was in no state to be picky.

After about five minutes the butcher arrived and explained what'd happened and begged the old woman for the money back. After hearing what happened she unhappily went to give the money back until Iesha started shouting, pointing aggressively at the man, "HES LYING! LOOK AT HIM! HE CAUSED YOU THIS PAIN AND IS NOW TRYING TO TAKE YOUR MONEY!"

The butcher looked shocked and didn't have the heart to argue with either of the women but he did manage to let out a slight whisper, saying, "Why fight your own people, your own allies?"

Iesha ignored what he said and rolled her eyes. The old woman, practically blinded by the idea of having the money, agreed with Iesha and asked her to walk her to the nurse's house. The nurse's house had absolutely no medical supplies, it was just the house of a woman who was quite good at helping people. Iesha and the old woman walked away as the butcher sat on a wall, his face in his hands. Iesha looked back at him with a smirk, as if to say, "I won!" As if there was any winner in a situation like this.

As months went by the butcher had become the poorest of the poor and The Power were growing suspicious that he might not be able to pay his fines any longer. The people in the village had been able to get him this far, as far as fines went, but now he felt as if he had failed himself and his now dead daughter, as he couldn't pay for any medical help for her. He had started to go slightly insane and didn't have a good grasp on reality.

Iesha somehow still saw all of this as a win but Iesha was still aware that if The Power did get a hold of him, the people of her sector would turn on her and blame her for what would happen to him. They already didn't like her for what she did to the butcher and that was only amplified through the daughters passing. Iesha was scared to go to the market again, for various reasons but most of all she knew the public did not have the full respect that

they used to for her. However, she did have to go to the market as her and the old woman had no food left. She was now living with the old woman.

She walked to the market with her face and body as covered as it could be without raising suspicion. To protect her identity. She walked through a field and saw a scarecrow that was pointing in the direction of her home. She looked at it and thought for a minute if it was best for her to go home. But she thought about how the old woman needed the food to get through the coming winter.

As she walked into the bakery, the door got caught on her clothes, the clothes being used to hide her identity. She did not notice and kept walking and within seconds all the clothes being used to hide who she was, fell off. She was just left in her normal clothes.

The baker immediately started screaming at her to get out and screaming at her that she killed the butcher's daughter. The fury in the baker's face showed all Iesha needed to know about the public opinion on her. Iesha, felt overwhelmed and a small sense of betrayal, as the baker's was somewhere she had always felt welcome and safe. Rather than feeling guilty or having an attempt at an apology she went back into the baker's and started screaming. Except this time there were guards there who began to say, "Iesha Stronghold, you are under arrest for disruption of the peace in sector 10."

The guards sounded just like robots. Iesha's face completely dropped and she began screaming and kicking, which did nothing to affect the armored guards. The baker looked at the whole situation with a smirk. Two of the other guards lifted her by putting their hands under her armpits and dragging her towards the sector hall, which was where the guards slept and where all-important meetings happened.

After three months of assumed execution - although it was rumored people heard her screaming in the early weeks of her capture - Iesha was released.

But she was not the same as before.

She walked out of the town hall, nearly unrecognizable. Her back was straight and her hair straightened. She would never betray The Power again. She became The Power's pet and obeyed whatever they asked of her. She was there to listen and hear what the people were saying, to ensure there would be no fightback.