

A DAY AT THE MARKET

Written by

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Final Draft

FADE IN:

EXT. HUMBLE APARTMENT COMPLEX - AFTERNOON

A crumbling courtyard-house, overgrown with moss and ivy. The courtyard's pool, though still littered with leaves, is cleaner than usual due to the previous night's storm. Water still drips from the terracotta roof-tiles. The drops echo through the eerily quiet halls.

Maya, a small, very pregnant-looking woman covered in numerous shawls, casually makes her way through the shadows of the house. She gives her surroundings one last look before unlocking and entering a door.

INT. HUMBLE APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

A single-room apartment with a cooking hearth and a curtained corner for bathing. Mats for sleeping rolled and placed to the side make room for sitting around an old short-legged table. Tripti kneels in front of the hearth, tossing her dirty chestnut-brown braid over one shoulder before stoking the fire.

Maya rushes into the apartment with a big smile on her face. She quickly locks the door and blocks it with a log that's half her size. She begins telling her story as she crosses the small room, caressing what appears to be her pregnant belly along the way.

MAYA

So I'm at the market, trying to haggle for just a little more that we could afford... when this pocket-rocket lady-pirate shows up! She goes straight into the brothel-

TRIPTI

(pantomiming)

Greetings, Tripti, o' wise and noble elder twin. - Oh, hi Maya! Good day at the market? Something you want to tell me?

(pokes Maya's belly)

MAYA

Like I said last time, why bother if you're going to do that every time? And...

(rubs the "belly", grins)

...we'll get there. So she goes-

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TRIPTI

Wait... How'd you know she was a pirate?

MAYA

I dunno, her clothes I guess. She had a very pirate-y look about her. Anyway-

TRIPTI

Like... big hat, long coat, wicked kicks, bird friend?

MAYA

Yea, the whole deal. The bird was an owl. Can I please tell the story?

TRIPTI

(gestures for Maya to continue)

MAYA

Thank you. So she goes straight into the brothel and... you know how things seem to get still and quiet before something terrible happens?

TRIPTI

Yea...

MAYA

So she had to have only been in there for a few minutes, but it felt like everything outside was in slow motion... Suddenly, she comes flying out of the window - crashes into a fruit cart.

TRIPTI

Holy crap...

MAYA

Yea. A couple people go to help her... but she doesn't need any help. She claws her way out like an angry puma and climbs back through the window.

TRIPTI

Why not use the door?

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MAYA

(shrugs)

Few seconds later, she's dragging this guy out the front door by his hair. A handful of the working women just watch. A few look amused. I know I was. Anyway... She pushes the guy into the street and goes into this stance...

(mimics stance)

...like she wants to fight or something!

TRIPTI

(amused)

Looks a bit military...

MAYA

That's what I thought! But wait, it gets better...

(starts unwrapping shawls from her shoulders and head)

So the first thing the guys does... is fix his hair.

TRIPTI

Seriously?

MAYA

Yea! I almost burst into laughter! Anyway, after he fussed with his hair for a minute or so, lady-pirate was all "*I'm ready when you are.*" But he ignores her and keeps at his hair. So she says, "*Don't bother, I'll have removed it from you before the day is done.*" Word for word.

TRIPTI

"Removed it from you"?

MAYA

Yea...

(still unwrapping shawls)

By this point, all of the brothel-worker are watching... everyone in the market stopped shopping... and I used the distraction to acquire us a feast!

Removes the last shawl from around her waist to reveal a pack full of food, strategically hung from her neck, in

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front of her belly to make her appear pregnant. She removes the pack and places it on the table, then takes a piece of bread and bites off as large a piece as her mouth would allow.

MAYA
(her mouth full of bread)
Work your magic.

TRIPTI
My pleasure.

Tripti reaches under the table as Maya continues her story and produces a bundle of leather. She unrolls the bundle to reveal a set of extremely expensive cooking utensils. She lovingly extracts a knife from the group, admires it a moment, then begins preparing their feast.

MAYA
Now, I'm guessing it was the threat to his hair that did it... Because something drove him into an absolute rage. I've never seen someone kick so fast. It was a bit ridiculous, really... Him just balancing there on one leg as he just... rapidly kicked at her. She did a bunch of blocking and dodging at first, then managed to get a hold of his leg. Then he switched on her! Did some sort of weird body twist and slammed his free knee right into the side of her head.

TRIPTI
(mouth full of berries)
Oh, jeez... did that knock her out?

MAYA
Nah... see... she stumbled back a bit, but the blow to the head only seemed to further piss her off! She goes into this... I don't know... like a butterfly assassin stance... crouched down low with one leg out, like this...
(demonstrates)
...and her arms up, like this...

TRIPTI
That one doesn't look very military...

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MAYA

(still demonstrating)

Exactly! Then it was just a blur of sleeves as she came back up... and somehow he's on his back. Oh, man! You should have been there!

TRIPTI

You're very excited...

MAYA

(blushes)

...anyway... Then she made good on her word...

TRIPTI

What word?

MAYA

"I'll have removed it from you before the day is done."

TRIPTI

Oh... oh!

MAYA

Yea... ripped it clean off... with her bare hands...

TRIPTI

(gags a bit)

Oh no...

MAYA

It was pretty brutal. That's actually what let me grab all that meat. The crowd was in shock.

TRIPTI

And you weren't?

MAYA

Food, Tripti. Opportunity.

TRIPTI

Fair enough. Go on.

MAYA

So she keeps the hair...

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TRIPTI
(gags again)

MAYA
...puts it in her pocket and leaves him there. She makes this little motion with her hand at the brothel-workers and they all turn around and go back inside. The crowd starts breaking up... Nobody cares about the guy wailing in the street... I've got all the food we need... So I sneak over to one of the back alley doors and -

TRIPTI
Really?

MAYA
What? Why not? I had no plans of throwing her through a window.

TRIPTI
Sure, I guess that's logic.

MAYA
So I slipped into an empty room, put the bag of food over my belly, borrowed a few shawls, and quietly eased into a dark corner of the courtyard where they'd gathered.

TRIPTI
Did anyone see you?

MAYA
Not that I could tell. They were pretty deep in their discussion about who would run the brothel. The pirate offers some suggestions, a few of which they seem to like. But before they land on a decision, she asks them to hear her proposal...

INT. BROTHEL COURTYARD - MORNING (FLASHBACK)

About four dozen women sit in the corner of the small courtyard still shaded from the sun. A light breeze sends ripples across the courtyard's central pool. Silk curtains dance over matching pillows and repurposed broken terracotta roof tiles. Unfinished cups of tea on intricately carved wooden tables still emit delicate streams of visible steam,

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and the mixed aroma of saffron, lotus, and honey. The lady-pirate and three of the brothel-workers stand between the group and the pool. Maya conceals herself at the back of the group, putting on her best modest pregnant lady act.

LADY-PIRATE

I seek a competent crew. In exchange... I offer training, work, food, shelter, and freedom. You will be treated and paid better than you ever were here, possibly better than your entire life. There will be rules to follow, tasks to complete, and it won't always be easy... but I can guarantee it will be worth it.

BROTHEL-WORKER

(standing with the pirate)
Why come here? ...to us?

LADY-PIRATE

Because talent can be found anywhere.

INT. HUMBLE APARTMENT - AFTERNOON (BACK TO PRESENT)

Maya and Tripti are sitting at the short-legged table, quickly devouring the meal that Tripti prepared as Maya continued her story.

TRIPTI

(sips her water and
swallows her food so she
can speak)
Interesting...

MAYA

Right? I mean, there was more conversation after that but-

TRIPTI

You want us to join this crew, don't you?

MAYA

We could be valuable... well-paid... well-fed!

TRIPTI

We certainly have her to thank for this meal...

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MAYA

Really?

TRIPTI

I mean, sure- you went around and stole it... and got it home without getting caught... but she provided the opportunity.

MAYA

Let's call it a joint effort.

TRIPTI

Fine, fine.

MAYA

Come on, tell me this doesn't sound like a good idea...

TRIPTI

Well...

MAYA

Exactly.

TRIPTI

So we leave after dinner?

MAYA

I knew you'd be on board.

TRIPTI

Meaning... you already signed us up?

MAYA

You know me so well.