

THE RED PAINED DOOR: A SHORT SHORT BY EVERLEIGH BRENNER

EXT. CITY CENTRE ZEBRA CROSSING- MIDNIGHT

A 24 year old woman, AARIYA, wearing grey sweatpants, an oversized black hoodie and a multi colored patterned scarf is standing at the edge of a zebra crossing. Long brown hair hangs over her stoney frowning face. Her eyes are hazed over and a bloodshot red.

\*HONK\*

A gift wrapped bottle slips out of Aariya's hand but is quickly caught by her agile ballerina feet. Aariya looks over to shoulder to see a patient black Prius waiting for her to cross. How has he been? Never mind. She bends down, grabs her gift wrapped bottle and scurries halfway across the street. She stops.

AARIYA

Wait?

Aariya stares at the Prius in front of her.

\*HONK\*

Aariya turns and hustles back to the place she started. The Prius drives past her aggressively.

AARIYA (CONT'D)

North is left yeah?

Aariya turns left and is pushed by the wind in that direction.

EXT. RED DOORED HOUSE - 5 MINUITES LATER

Aariya arrives at a red painted door attached to a red painted house. She takes a small white jade comb out of her purse and straighten her wind torn hair. It gets stuck.

AARIYA

Fuck.

The red door opens. A old man wearing a corduroy suit, Linus stands opposite Aariya.

AARIYA (CONT'D)

I didn't knock.

LINUS  
Must of been the wind.

INT. DINING ROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Aariya sits on the end of a dining table, laid with a feast for kings across from Linus who sits at the other end. She places the gift wrapped bottle on the ground next to her chair. The table is strewn with many a potato and variety of meats. Aariya sits, still struggling to get the jade comb out of her knotted hair.

LINUS  
Eat child.

AARIYA  
I'm vegan Grandpa.

LINUS  
No you are not.

Aariya sits confused.

LINUS (CONT'D)  
What's in your hair?

AARIYA  
Nothing.

LINUS  
Is that the?-

AARIYA  
Yes.

LINUS  
Why is it?-

AARIYA  
Karma.

Linus sits and stares daggers at his grandchild.

LINUS  
Eat child.

AARIYA  
I'm vegan Grandpa.

LINUS  
How was I supposed to know that.

AARIYA  
I told you 30 seconds ago.

LINUS  
BEFORE COOKING YOU NITWIT.

Silence.

Aariya laughs.

LINUS (CONT'D)  
What is funny?

AARIYA  
Nothing.

LINUS  
Are you high?

AARIYA  
No I'm just tired.

LINUS  
Why on earth would a young thing be  
tired.

AARIYA  
Because it's not common to have  
dinner at midnight Grandpa. People  
sleep at this hour.

LINUS  
We're not people Child.

AARIYA  
Im half people, and the half of me  
that is people, is tired.

LINUS  
And the other half is high as  
balls.

Aariya bursts into laughter.

LINUS (CONT'D)  
WHAT CHILD? THAT WAS ON THE  
TELEVISION SCREEN I HEARD IT!

AARIYA  
I doubt you not.

LINUS  
That's why the jade is stuck in  
your hair you know.

AARIYA

I know.

LINUS

Then why did you lie.

AARIYA

You knew the truth anyway, what difference does it make?

LINUS

BLOODY KARMA AARIYA KARMA!

The two sit in silence.

LINUS (CONT'D)

Eat Child!

AARIYA

I'm vegan Grandpa!

LINUS

AND YOUR BLOODY HUMAN NOW TOO HUH?

AARIYA

MOSTLY YES!

Linus stands and leaves the table in a humph leaving Aariya alone in the dining room.

AARIYA (CONT'D)

(calling after him)

Grandpa! Grandpa I'm sorry, but there are so many environmental issues with eating meat.

There is no response. The clock on the wall ticks loudly.

AARIYA (CONT'D)

GRANDPA!

Linus appears back at the dining room door and floats to Aariya's side with a box in his hand. He holds it out in front of Aariya's face.

AARIYA (CONT'D)

I don't think I-

LINUS

Open it.

Aariya looks up at her grandfather, back down at the box on an exhale opens the box revealing a beautiful pearly pair of FANGS.

AARIYA  
I'M VEGAN GRANDPA JESUS!

LINUS  
You are the only one left Aariya  
you must suck blood!

Aariya stands up and takes her body to the centre of the table where the bloody pig head lay, she grabs the knife from the side of the stray and instead of cutting the pig head, she cuts the jade comb out of her hair.

LINUS (CONT'D)  
CHILD NO!

Aariya storms back to her chair, leans over and grabs the gift wrapped bottle she left at the side. She hands it to her grandfather.

LINUS (CONT'D)  
I don't think I-

AARIYA  
Open it.

Linus unwraps the gift revealing a bottle of viscous red liquid. Linus looks at the bottle. A tear falls down his cheek. He looks back up at Aariya who stands with the dominance of 1000 monks.

AARIYA (CONT'D)  
Suck my blood, Grandpa.

And on that note, Aariya storms out of the red painted house through the red painted door.

EXT. CITY CENTRE ZEBRA CROSSING - DARK WINDY

Aariya stands at the edge of a zebra crossing.

AARIYA  
South is right, right?

Aariya turns right and is pushed by the wind in that direction.

FADE TO RED.

SAMPLE