

ARC

Written by

Not Telling

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INT. ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE (ARC), HEATHROW AIRPORT - NIGHT

ABBI, 30s, geek cute in a green uniform complete with brimmed cap and glasses perched on the end of her nose, checks some paperwork. Behind her animal cages and glass tanks line the shelves, their inhabitants mostly asleep.

CARL, 18, nervous as only interns can be and in the same uniform as Abbi, carefully opens a large box to reveal a ventilated interior and a small glass tank full of sand.

CARL

What's supposed to be in here?

He lifts the tank to better examine the contents.

Abbi looks at the Latin name, *Androctonus*, on the paperwork, grabs her phone to Google it.

ABBI

Yellow Fattail Scorpion.

CARL

Never heard of it.

ABBI

You've never heard of anything!

Carl laughs and accidentally drops the tank onto the workbench next to Abbi.

The sound of BREAKING GLASS fills the small room as sand and pebbles fly into the air.

CARL

Oops, sorry.

Carl looks down at what's left of the vivarium.

Abbi backs away from the bench and the mound of sand and glass, heads towards the glass-paneled exit door.

CARL

What's wrong?

ABBI

Yellow Fattailed Scorpion, aka the most poisonous scorpion in Africa.

The colour drains from Carl's face in an instant.

CARL

What do I do?

ABBI
Stand very still, I'll get help.

She slips out of the room, already dialing someone.

Carl freezes.

Abbi holds an animated conversation with someone.

CARL
What's happening?

Abbi ends the call, turns back to shout through the glass.

ABBI
London Zoo are sending a specialist.

CARL
Thank god!

ABBI
Tomorrow morning.

CARL
What, really?

Abbi nods as Carl glances nervously around the room.

ABBI
Look, they're more scared of you.

CARL
Unlikely. And what do you mean *they*?

Abbi nods and holds up two fingers.

Carl looks over to Abbi, eyes pleading.

Then his face changes, eyes go wide, fear now the emotion.

He points at her head, her cap to be precise.

ABBI
What?

CARL
Found them.

Abbi stares at the glass door panel, focuses on her reflection and sees the two Fattail scorpions resting on the brim of her cap, yellow stingers twitching eagerly.

ABBI
Fuck.