

You're Never Ready

By

Gillian Fu

EXT. STREET-DAY

TRISTAN strolls down the cobbled road, dust and autumn leaves fly everywhere. He's barely a teenager, rash and unsatisfied by his countryside life.

A sparrow takes off above his head and it captivates his attention. He is jealous of the sparrow.

Free to go wherever it wants, whenever.

The sound of horses distracts TRISTAN's attention. He sprints to it's direction, which is behind him.

There are only two horses, both with a man on each. These men are officers from the army.

One of them is HENRI, ostentatious, 45. The other is ALEX, shy, 39.

TRISTAN is fascinated by the thought of the officers' freedom.

HENRI

You, boy! Do you know where we can find some eager men to fight for our country in the war?

TRISTAN

You're looking at one. I am-

Confused, ALEX butts in.

ALEX

You're just a child.

TRISTAN sticks out his chest proudly.

TRISTAN

I'm 18, old enough to fight.

ALEX

Listen son, war isn't playing with guns; people die out there. Trust me, don't lie.

TRISTAN's shackles rise.

TRISTAN

Now, what are you talking about lying? I'm not lying! I am 18 and I want to fight for my country.

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HENRI

Hold it there. Don't be rash.

TRISTAN

I'm not! I know what I want to do
and that is get out of this village
and see the world-

ALEX holds up a commanding finger.

ALEX

You're not gonna see the world
through war.

TRISTAN

I'm gonna see more than this
village and that's enough for me.

HENRI

What about your family?

TRISTAN

I only have a mum and she's never
in.

A beat. HENRI and ALEX study TRISTAN.

ALEX

Fine. But if your head gets blasted
off it's not my fault.

TRISTAN grins with pride.

TRISTAN

Thank you sir!

HENRI

Report for duty tomorrow in Paris
at the army headquarters, there
your role will be decided. After
which you'll be shipped out
somewhere for training. Understand?

ALEX looks at HENRI as though he's gone mad. TRISTAN is
oblivious to this, he nods with zeal.

TRISTAN

Yes sir. You won't regret giving me
this opportunity!

TRISTAN sprints off, kicking the autumn leaves into the air,
making a whirlwind of orange.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX
What did you just do?

HENRI
Humoured him.

ALEX
He's gonna get killed.

HENRI
Maybe.

Without a second thought about Tristan, HENRI and ALEX
continue their journey down the road.