

PRINCESS OF IRULAN

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INT. CUBICLE FARM - DAY

The typical, drab cube of a menial worker. Setting down her purse is CAROL, 28, comely but not particularly hot. This job is as boring as you imagine.

Even as she slides into her chair, she spots an envelope propped against her phone. In bright letters-

PRINCESS.

She tears open the envelope and pulls out a card.

**You have no idea how special you are.
So special, your very existence is
threatened. Meet me in the park at
lunch time. -- Scorpio**

She reads the card twice and stares at it even as the writing disappears. She frowns. How did that happen? She looks at the envelope, and it is blank too.

She stands and looks out over the sea of cubicles. No one looks back.

INT. CAROL'S APARTMENT - DAY

The door opens on this run-of-the-mill apartment, and the light exposes an envelope on the carpet.

Carol steps inside and picks up an envelope exactly like the one she found at work.

PRINCESS.

She tears open the envelope and pulls out a similar card.

**I implore you to accept your birthright.
The kingdom needs you. Before it is too
late, meet me in the park at lunch time.
-- Scorpio**

Carol watches the words fade from the card. What the hell is going on? She looks out the still open door but sees no one.

INT. CAROL'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

In pajamas, Carol reads email on her laptop. It DINGS with new mail, and she opens, reading the screen.

Princess.

The enemy knows you are here. Do not forsake those who will rejoice at your return. Meet me in the park at lunch time. -- Scorpio

Even as she reads, the message fades off the screen. She bites her lip.

INT. CUBICLE FARM - DAY

Carol arrives at her cubicle and finds the telltale envelope. She grabs it and stomps out of her cube, right to the cube of CHARLEY, 25, wearing I'll-never-get-laid glasses and plaid.

She tosses the envelope in front of him. He raises a finger; he's on the phone. She waits, arms folded.

CHARLEY

(on phone)

Yes, ma'am, your DVD of FROZEN, complete with both Elsa and Anna dolls will be shipped today. At your door in three days. Thank you for your business.

He kills the call, grabs the envelope, and faces Carol.

CHARLEY

What's this?

CAROL

Don't play dumb.

CHARLEY

No, really, what is it?

CAROL

Just stop putting them in my cubicle. And stop the email too. Stalking will cost you your job.

CHARLEY

Carol, trust me, I have nothing to do with this. I swear. When have I ever called you 'Princess'?

She regards him a moment.

CAROL

You're not Scorpio?

CHARLEY
I'm Charley, remember? Who the
hell is Scorpio?

She snatches the envelope from him.

CAROL
Stay away from me.

She marches away as his phone CHIMES.

CHARLEY
Crazo.
(on phone)
Good morning and thank you for
calling Ideas Unlimited. How can I
help you?

Carol reaches her cubicle and taps the envelope against her
teeth.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Carol, brown bag in hand, slides onto a bench and looks
around. Nothing odd catches her eye, so she opens her bag
and pulls out an apple. Even as she does, a small, weasely
man, SCORPIO, sits a few feet away.

SCORPIO
Don't look at me.

Of course, she looks before she turns back to her apple.

SCORPIO
Princess Ardelle, I apologize for
meeting like this, but I'm afraid
our enemies have discovered your
existence.

CAROL
What? My name is Carol.

SCORPIO
We don't have much time, so please
listen.

CAROL
Who are you?

SCORPIO

You are Princess Ardelle from the planet Irulan. You were born during the revolution. To preserve your life, you were transported to this planet, given a new history, and hidden among the natives.

CAROL

Yeah, right, what kind of whack job are you?

SCORPIO

According to your memory, you never knew your parents. They died when you were one, and you went to live with a maiden Aunt in a small, rural town. She died when you left for college. You have no brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, or grandparents. Don't you find that odd?

CAROL

I have photos of Aunt Lil and my parents.

SCORPIO

There are no photos of your parents with you, none of Aunt Lil with your parents. In fact, none of your photos show your relatives together--because they never were.

CAROL

That means nothing. I can find some stupid photos if I want.

SCORPIO

When you were transported here, your memories of Irulan were downloaded, and your mind wiped clean. New memories were implanted.

(MORE)

SCORPIO (cont'd)

(pulls a small crystal
cube from his pocket)

Your real memories are stored here.

CAROL

That's beyond crazy. There's no
tech like that on earth.

SCORPIO

Princess Ardelle has a small
birthmark in the shape of a five-
pointed star, the seal of the house
of Iru, on the inside of her right
arm.

Carol automatically touches the inside of her arm.

CAROL

What are you, some kind of stalker?
Did Charley put you up to this?

SCORPIO

My real name is Grudo. My father
was Gruda, captain of the palace
guards. He was responsible for
faking your death and hiding you
here. Recently, his memory was
recovered by the opposition, and
your existence exposed. You are
the last of the house of Iru. The
revolutionaries will stop at
nothing to kill you and extinguish
the last hope for a restoration of
the throne and glory of Irulan.

She studies him, not knowing exactly what to do.

SCORPIO

Your memories cannot be restored
here. You must come to the ship so
I can strip out the false memories
and replant your true identity.

CAROL

If I'm a princess, why hasn't anyone contacted me before?

SCORPIO

Contact only increases the danger. If the revolutionaries had not learned of your escape, I wouldn't be here.

CAROL

I'm sorry. Yeah, you know some stuff about me, but this Irucan story is right out of some sci-fy fantasy game. It's insane, bonkers. There is no way I'm believing you.

SCORPIO

The proof lies in your memories. I cannot force you to restore them. Neither can I protect you for long against the assassins who hunt you. They will stop at nothing to kill off the last Iru. They are committed to nothing less. I implore you to allow me to return the memories that will remind you of your rightful claim to the golden throne of Irulan. We have little time.

He stands and faces her..

CAROL

Why should I trust you?

SCORPIO

Look inside yourself. You know you were meant for greater things. You know you were destined to lead, to inspire, to hear throngs chant your name as they follow you to the very gates of the nether world.

(MORE)

SCORPIO (cont'd)

Look inside, Princess, look deep.
You know, deep down, you know you
are Ardelle.

He hands her a card.

SCORPIO

Come to this address after work.
You will see.

She watches him hurry away as she plays the card across her
lips.

INT. CUBICLE FARM - DAY

Carol sits at her station, the card beside her keyboard.

CHARLEY (O.S.)

How's it going?

She glances to where he lounges against a wall.

CHARLEY

Where did you go for lunch?

CAROL

Why does that matter?

CHARLEY

I ordered pizza. Thought you might
like some.

CAROL

Thanks but no thanks.

CHARLEY

No prob. But if you change your
mind, it's in the break room.

He backs away under her stare.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Carol looks from the card to the door of an old, decrepit
warehouse. Should she?

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

A vast, empty warehouse. Carol approaches a wooden chair with constraints in the middle of a square rug. Behind the chair is a small room. She stops to consider the chair.

SCORPIO (O.S.)

Crude compared to the facilities on Irulan, but I assure you it will work.

She turns to where he stands.

SCORPIO

Good evening, Princess. Are you ready?

CAROL

Tell me again what is going to happen?

SCORPIO

Have a seat.

She sits, and he begins to strap in her legs and arms.

SCORPIO

The first process will erase your false memories and prepare your mind for implantation of your true memories. As your memories disappear, you will lose consciousness, but let me assure you there will be little pain, more of a twinge. The second process will implant new memories. You'll awake knowing you are Ardelle, princess of Irulan.

He steps back and smiles.

CAROL

Don't you have to put something on my head?

SCORPIO

In the old days. Now, it's done
via brainwaves. You'll feel some
pressure, nothing more.

She tests her constraints.

CAROL

Then, why...

SCORPIO

It is always better to keep the
subject still. I'll be right back.

He disappears into the small room, while she looks around.
No space ship, nothing that could be interpreted as 'alien'.
She hears the door open and turns.

CAROL

Where is your space...

Her voice dies when she spots the long knife in his hand.

SCORPIO

(smiling)

Foolish, foolish girl.

CAROL

What are you doing?

SCORPIO

I'm doing what I always do.

He steps forward and grabs her hair.

CAROL

Wait, I'm not a princess of Irulan?

He laughs and runs the blade along her cheek.

SCORPIO

What does it matter? In death, you
are nothing.

CAROL

You lied to me?!

He jerks her head back, exposing her inviting neck.

SCORPIO

You wanted to believe. You always
wanted to believe.

CAROL

Please, no, please.

A red dot appears on Scorpio's forehead.

BAM

The hole in his head bleeds as the knife falls from his hand,
and he collapses.

Out of the dark charges a black-clad WOMAN with a rifle. She
checks to make sure Scorpio is dead before she unsheathes her
commando knife and kneels to free Carol.

WOMAN

I beg your forbearance, Princess.

CAROL

What?

WOMAN

When Grudo escaped our
surveillance, I should have known
he would come for you.

CAROL

His name is Scorpio.

WOMAN

His name is traitor.

She stands, pulls Carol from the chair, and sinks to one
knee.

WOMAN

Princess Ardelle, I am sworn to
your service.

CAROL

I really am a Princess?

The Woman grabs her rifle, stands, and takes Carol's hand. Then, she drops it, goes to Scorpio, and rifles his pockets, coming up with the crystal.

WOMAN

We have little time. When Grudo doesn't report, the revolutionaries will send others.

They start for the exit.

CAROL

I am a Princess. I really am. A princess of Irulan.

WOMAN

The last princess.

FADE OUT