

LIMA (EXCERPT II)

Written by

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INT. CLASSROOM BUILDING, HALLWAY - DAY

CASSANDRA DOLOR (15) walks down the hall with Cadet HOLLY EVANS (15) and EDWARD SMITH (15).

EDWARD

Did you finish the class work?

CADET EVANS

Yeah. It was simple enough.

CASSANDRA

My visit to Block's office threw me off, but I think I got it done.

CADET EVANS

What did he want?

Cassandra hesitates a moment. Edward shakes his head.

CASSANDRA

Uh, paperwork issues. Seems my parents signed some forms but the school has no record of them.

CADET EVANS

Typical for this place. They must have lost my first year---

Cassandra stops and smacks her own forehead.

CASSANDRA

---Crap! I forgot to turn in my return slip to Manzella.

She turns back toward the classroom.

CADET EVANS

You want us to wait?

CASSANDRA

No, save me a spot at the table. I'll be right there.

EDWARD

Will do.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Cassandra hurries back into the darkened classroom, but Manzella is not there.

CASSANDRA

Dang it.

She pulls the note out of her pocket and sets it in the middle Manzella's desk.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)

Now he can't miss it.

She turns and exits the classroom.

INT. CLASSROOM BUILDING, HALLWAY - DAY

Cassandra walks down the hallway then stops. RYOKO KASHIWARA (18) stands in front of the doors. Cassandra backs up a step, turns and walks the other direction.

She hurries down the hall, but GEMMA BOWDEN (18) stands in front of the doors at the other end of the hall.

Ryoko walks toward Cassandra, an evil grin on her face.

RYOKO

Don't run. I just want to talk.

Cassandra stops and looks back at Ryoko, then bolts for the door behind Gemma. Ryoko sprints after her.

RYOKO (CONT'D)

Stop her.

Gemma sets to catch Cassandra, but she's caught off guard when Cassandra throws her backpack in her face. Cassandra pushes Gemma aside and runs out the door.

EXT. CLASSROOM BUILDING - DAY

Cassandra runs out the door and sees more of Ryoko's goons all around. She shoves the nearest one out of the way and runs toward the barracks.

Ryoko and her goons give chase and corner Cassandra behind the maintenance building.

RYOKO

What were you doing in the commandant's office?

CASSANDRA

What do you mean?

Ryoko moves in close to Cassandra.

RYOKO

I saw you walking out of his office
not two hours ago, and I think I
know what you were doing.

CASSANDRA

Really? Tell me.

Ryoko gets face to face with Cassandra. The rest of the goons
close in.

RYOKO

Think your pretty smart? You think
I did away with Cadet Anderson?

CASSANDRA

What are you talking about? Where
are you getting this from?

RYOKO

Don't play stupid with me. You must
have been spilling your guts to the
Commandant.

CASSANDRA

Get out of my way!

Cassandra moves past Ryoko, but Ryoko grabs Cassandra by the
jaw then throws her violently against the wall. Cassandra
turns and faces Ryoko, scrapes on her forehead.

RYOKO

Not so fast, Cadet Dolor. First we
must come to an understanding.

CASSANDRA

Stop it. Get away from me.

RYOKO

I'm just getting started.

Ryoko punches her in the stomach and Cassandra doubles over.
Ryoko knees her in the face as she comes down.

Cassandra staggers. Blood runs from a cut on her right cheek.
She throws a punch and hits nothing but air.

RYOKO (CONT'D)

Can't you do better than that?

Ryoko lands several punches on Cassandra's body, then the
heel of her hand to Cassandra's face.

Ryoko drops and sweeps Cassandra's legs. Cassandra lands flat on her back, the breath knocked out of her. She struggles to sit up and get air.

Ryoko gets on top of Cassandra, one knee in her chest, and leans in close. Cassandra's eyes widen and she tries to form words, but no sound comes out.

RYOKO (CONT'D)
 You still haven't learned your place. Pity. But in case you get any brilliant ideas...

Ryoko pulls Cassandra's head up by the hair, and delivers a vicious blow that knocks her out.

INT. INFIRMARY - NIGHT

Three beds in the infirmary are occupied, but only one patient has a monitor hooked up to them. The steady BEEP BEEP of the monitor taps out Cassandra's pulse.

Edward and Cadet Evans stand outside the door and look in. A NURSE approaches the door.

EDWARD
 Excuse me, ma'am. Could we go in and see our friend?

NURSE
 Which patient?

CADET EVANS
 Cassandra Dolor.

Cadet Evans gestures toward Cassandra. The nurse's face softens as she looks at Cassandra.

NURSE
 I'm sorry, but she's in really bad shape. If we had a proper ICU, she would be there.

EDWARD
 That bad?

NURSE
 One the worst I've seen. We're keeping her sedated, so it'll probably be a few days before she can have visitors.

EDWARD
Thank you, ma'am.

The nurse goes into the infirmary to tend one of the patients. Edward and Evans turn and walk down the hall.

INT. INFIRMARY, HALLWAY - NIGHT

The sound of their shoes echoes down the hall as Edward and Evans head for the barracks.

CADET EVANS
Who did this to her?

EDWARD
If it's who I think it is, this
isn't over for Cass.

CADET EVANS
If you decide to do anything about
it, count me in.

Edward smiles at Evans.

EDWARD
Didn't know you were a fan.

CADET EVANS
She's in our squad. It's the least
we should do.

INT. MESS HALL - DAY

Edward and Evans sit with the rest of Bear Delta Squad at lunch. Kevin approaches Edward.

KEVIN
Cadet Smith.

Edward and the other cadets stand and salute.

EDWARD
Yes, sir?

KEVIN
At ease, Cadets.
(to Edward)
I heard what happened to Cassandra.
How is she?

EDWARD
They have her sedated, so I'm
guessing really bad.

KEVIN
And no one saw anything?

EDWARD
No. Evans and I were on our way
here when it happened.

KEVIN
This is getting out of hand. Let me
know if you hear anything.

EDWARD
Will do, sir.

Kevin makes his way to his usual solitary table. Edward sits
back down.

CADET EVANS
What was that about?

EDWARD
Seems we have ourselves an
unexpected ally.

CADET EVANS
Head Cadet Moraias?

EDWARD
Cassandra must have made quite an
impression on him.

INT. INFIRMARY - DAY

BLACK SCREEN

A slow, steady BEEP repeats. The HISS of air from a nozzle.
Someone speaking softly at some distance.

FADE IN

Cassandra stirs. She blinks her eyes repeatedly, and looks
around. Everything is out of focus. She closes her eyes.

She opens here eyes again and the world comes into focus.

CASSANDRA
(croaking)
Water...

Edward and Kevin rush to her bedside.

EDWARD
Cass? What was that?

CASSANDRA
Water.

KEVIN
I'll get the nurse.

Kevin hurries out of the room. Edward looks around and finds a water bottle nearby.

EDWARD
Here you go.

He hands the bottle to Cassandra. She grips the bottle, but her hand begins to shake. She groans and drops the bottle.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Let me.

She nods and Edward takes the bottle and holds it gingerly to her lips. She takes a sip, coughs and sputters a bit, and drinks some more. She nods again and Edward takes the bottle.

CASSANDRA
Thank you. What day is it?

EDWARD
Monday.

CASSANDRA
What year?

EDWARD
Well, at least you still have a sense of humor. Do you remember what happened?

CASSANDRA
Ryoko and her thugs...

Kevin walks in the door with a cup full of ice.

KEVIN
I thought Edward was talking to himself again.

Cassandra's face lights up. Edward looks between the two.

CASSANDRA
Kevin. What are you doing here?

EDWARD

Kevin? Since when is he Kevin?

KEVIN

Bringing you a cup of ice. The nurse said it might help.

CASSANDRA

Sounds wonderful.

Kevin goes to hand her the cup, but Edward shakes his head. Kevin blushes a bit, and sits on the side of the bed. He takes a piece of ice and places it on Cassandra's lips.

EDWARD

So, Ryoko.

KEVIN

I knew she was a bitch, but I couldn't have imagined she was capable of this.

CASSANDRA

It wasn't just her.

KEVIN

Who else?

CASSANDRA

Her gang, goons, squad. Whatever you call them.

EDWARD

There's got to be something we can do about this.

KEVIN

I can talk to the brass and see if they can do something.

Cassandra touches Kevin's hand and shakes her head.

CASSANDRA

She saw me coming from the commandant's office.

EDWARD

No brass then.

CASSANDRA

You could beat her up for me.

Edward and Kevin both chuckle.

KEVIN

Wouldn't work. The head cadet
beating up another cadet, no matter
how much they deserve it, would
land me in the brig.

EDWARD

And Ryoko would still be out there.

KEVIN

I have a better idea. If she tries
anything, you kick her butt.

CASSANDRA

Seriously? Look what she did to me.

KEVIN

It's going to take some time, but
I'll teach you how to fight her,
and her gang if necessary.

Cassandra smiles at Kevin, and then looks at Edward.

EDWARD

That will solve a few problems, and
hopefully keep you out of here.

KEVIN

First you need to get better, then
you can learn to fight.

Cassandra nods and gives a shaky thumbs up.

EDWARD

Okay, I've got to go get the squad
ready for maneuvers. I'll say hi to
them for you, Cass.

Edward salutes Kevin, who returns the salute.

CASSANDRA

More ice, please.

FADE OUT.