

Warmup:

- 1) I don't know why, but I really like the last sentence of the first chapter; it sounds super sweet
- 2) I don't know how to finish writing the 2nd chapter
- 3) Finishing the exposition and rising action

The Unreserved Fate

Chapter 1 - Jorj

The wind blew heavily as Jorj felt a chill up his spine. Even though the sun hadn't yet set, it was bitterly cold. He was on a scouting mission with his sister, Ruiying. Everyone's morale was low after losing the last battle and Jorj felt responsible. So now, a sergeant was demoted to a lower-level mission with his younger sister. Great.

As they made their way down the hill, Ruiying grasped onto Jorj's arm.

"Are we almost back at the base yet?" Ruiying whispered.

"Almost," he whispered back.

"We just have to cross that bridge."

Jorj squeezed Ruiying's arm. After their parents died in a car accident, interdependence became crucial.

The army had toughened up Ruiying. She was no longer innocent and wept only in the presence of Jorj. In the beginning, she was everyone's emotional support and was always bouncing around. War had really affected her. Her smile disappeared and her awesome humor dimmed, eventually fading away.

To Jorj, she was his number one priority. He would do anything to protect her, even if it meant sacrificing himself.

Chapter 2 - Amelia

Amelia leaned over a balcony railing as the wind brushed against her rough, patched face. A large birthmark stretched across her face. Even though soldiers often satirize her appearance, she kept one rule: always remain invincible. Most importantly, Amelia is here for revenge.

Innumerable restless nights, unerasable childhood pain, a- and... hatred! She thought as she quivered. *Yes, hatred. If it weren't because of that stinky little girl, my life would have been drastically different. I'm here for revenge. They will pay for what happened. Not with money or silver, or even gold. They will pay with their worthless lives. Be my prey.*

Chapter 3 - Ruiying

Ruiying let out a deep sigh. She was tired and wanted to be back. *Why is the base so far away?*

“What in the world is almost to you?” Ruiying questioned.

“We’ve been walking for ages.”

She waited for a response from Jorj, but none was given. It seemed like he was deeply consumed by his thoughts.

“Jorj?” Ruiying asked with a hint of concern.

“Are you okay?”

“Huh?” Jorj said, snapping out of his daydream.

“Oh yeah, I’m good.”

“Are you sure we’re going in the right direction?” she asked.

“We’re literally stranded!”

“We only have to pass a few more buildings before we reach the bridge. And of course, this area is abandoned.”

“But we didn’t even find anything,” Ruiying replied.

“Yup, so we’re going again tomorrow.”

“Fly solo.”

Then, they walked in silence. Until they saw her.

Chapter 4 - Jorj

It started as a time of great celebration, but everything ceased when they saw her face.

“Jorj, look! It’s another human!” Ruiying exclaimed, pointing at her.

“Let’s go say hi!”

Wait. Why does she look oddly familiar? I-is that a birthmark? That’s...

Before Ruiying could run off, Jorj yanked her behind a wall. He could feel his heart hammering in his chest.

She started to say something, but paused when she saw the blood draining from his face.

“That’s Amelia, our sister,” Jorj said, his voice shaking.

“It happened when I was five.”

Although Amelia was only a year old, she was Jorj's best friend. He beamed with pride whenever she was brought up. When they gave her away, he completely crumbled.

It happened like it was yesterday.

Jorj was playing with Amelia's necklace when his parents walked in with a middle-aged couple. The woman was no taller than four-eleven. She had blonde hair and a bob cut. Her nose resembled that of a witch. Her husband didn't look any better; he wore shaggy clothes and his hair looked like a bird's nest.

"Mommy, who are these people?" Jorj inquired.

"Not now, Jorj," his mother said, walking over to his sister. She removed her necklace and handed it to him. He took it with confusion. Then, she scooped Amelia up and handed her over to the strangers. The woman took her and turned to leave.

"No!" Jorj roared.

"Give Amelia back!"

He leaped out and gripped the woman's shirt. He was beginning to get the upper hand when his dad came over and pried him off.

"Let me go!" Jorj shouted.

He tried to break away, but his dad held him back. He watched helplessly, paralyzed as his sister was taken away. He felt cold inside, as if his blanket had disappeared in the middle of a December night. As the door opened, Jorj heard the wind pounding against the trees.

"How could you give her up like that," Jorj howled.

"Hun, your mother is pregnant. We can't afford to have three kids," his father explained.

"So? I can share my things with her!" he wailed.

His parents just shook their heads.

“And yeah, that was about it,” Jorj said with a shrug.

“So this necklace was Amelia’s?” Ruiying questioned, holding the necklace.

“Yeah.”

The necklace had been turning darker and darker recently.

“Come on, let’s get back to base. We have to scout tomorrow too,” she whispered.

“We lost sight of Amelia anyways.”

“Yeah, okay,” Jorj said.

Little did they know, Amelia was following them.

Chapter 5 - Amelia

From across the street, Amelia watched Ruiying and Jorj enter the abandoned building. She patted the pistol in her pocket and grinned. She stood up, ready to execute her plan.

I’m finally going to get rid of them. This is what you get for intentionally abandoning me. Hell awaits both of you.

Ruiying and Jorj were separated.

This couldn’t have been more perfect.

“Jorj!” Amelia said, waving.

“A-amelia?” he stammered.

“Yup, I’m so glad to see you again!”

Amelia extended her arms and Jorj awkwardly embraced her.

“I missed you, Jorj. Do you know how long I’ve been waiting for this? 22 years. And it’s all because of you. You abandoned me.” Amelia whispered in his ear.

“I-” Jorj started.

“Don’t bother, Jorj. I don’t want to hear your excuses. And don’t try anything, I’ll kill Ruiying if you do.”

Jorj tensed up when he heard Ruiying’s name. He lowered his guard. Perfect.

Chapter 6 - Ruiying

Ruiying looked up and down the aisles for the weapon. She beamed when she finally found it. With a smile on her face and the weapon clutched in her hand, Ruiying skipped back to Jorj. After all, she was 15.

“Hey J-” Ruiying started.

Amelia was pulling Jorj into a hug. Ruiying noticed her whisper something into Jorj’s ear. Their voices were muffled by the buzzing of the ceiling fan. Curiosity forced Ruiying to inch closer. As if controlled by some unidentifiable force, she halted to a sudden stop.

Wait. Why was Amelia here in the first place? Soon enough, Amelia answered her question. From the corner of the shelf, Ruiying could see a silver firearm peeking out from Amelia’s pocket. It was a pistol. It was too late. She pulled out the gun and shot Jorj. Once. Twice. Three times. It felt like time had slowed down; all Ruiying could do was watch in absolute horror. As much as she didn’t want to draw attention to herself, her tears fought their way out.

“I’ll be back for you, kid!” shouted Amelia as she left victoriously.

Ruiying stumbled. Her knees buckled, and her legs felt like jello. It was as if her body couldn't support her weight. Her mind was racing. With every ounce of her strength, she crawled to Jorj. She hugged him tightly and sobbed.

What did we do to her? I wasn't even born yet, and Jorj was only five when she was abandoned. We didn't do anything. Why did she separate me from the only person that ever cared about me? And what did I do wrong? I just wanted to reconcile with her. How could she do something like that? Now I have no one in this cruel, ruthless world.

These thoughts continued to overwhelm Ruiying as she fought for sleep. No matter how persistent she was, it was impossible to drown out the image of Jorj's dead body. The velvet liquid unendingly gushed out and soaked his uniform. The sound of his body hitting the cold, filthy floor. And the look of absolute horror on his face as he gasped for air.

The tears clouded her vision as they fell down her face. She vomited, it was too much for a 15-year-old. She didn't know how she would go on without Jorj. As the images replayed in Ruiying's mind, clearer than any 4k movie, she reached her conclusion.

She was going to avenge Jorj.

Chapter 7 - The Final Showdown

Ruiying stood behind a tree, clutching the cold pistol against her chest. She had spent countless hours planning. She carefully peeked out and nearly jumped out when she saw her. Amelia was staring into space with her hands on the back of her neck.

Ruiying's hands instinctively gripped the necklace. The necklace had gotten darker; it was almost pitch black. Although it originally belonged to Amelia, she had never thought to take it off.

No, don't get distracted, Ruiying. Take care of Amelia first.

Ruiying aimed the pistol at Amelia's heart.

This is goodbye.

Then, she fired and ducked behind the tree again.

Bang.

The ringing of the gunshot rattled Ruiying's eardrum. After this long, the sound still traumatized her. She shuttered.

Did it hit Amelia?

She slowly peaked out and was immediately confused.

Crap, I lost her.

Then, every inch of Ruiying's body screamed at her to move. It was as if Jorj was still there, even after death. She hid behind the tree as Amelia fired her gun. The bullet grazed her arm.

Ruiying howled. It felt like she had touched a hot cast iron skillet. She gripped her necklace, the first thing she could get her hands on, and ripped it off. The beads clattered across the forest floor.

"Haha, that hurt, didn't it kid?" Amelia taunted.

If I jump out now, she won't expect it.

Ignoring the pain brought forward by the wound, Ruiying jumped out and pulled the trigger. It hit Amelia in the chest. She dropped the gun, clutched her chest, and fell over. She coughed, gasping for air.

"I'm sorry," Ruiying whispered.

She began to walk away when she heard a leaf rustle. She turned around and stared at Amelia.

“Me too,” Amelia muttered.

Then, her body went still. The moonlight reflected on her birthmark.

Artist's Statement

My story took inspiration from *Far From the Tree*'s three rotating perspectives. There were three main characters, so it made sense to include three different perspectives. Like *Far From the Tree*, the order of perspectives was also significant. The order foreshadowed the order they died and best moved the plot forward. And it coincidentally followed the order the siblings were born in. In addition, all of the names, besides Amelia, were taken from actual people. Even Amelia was taken inspiration from an actual person; it felt impolite to use her actual name, Emily.

Although it may not be apparent, as my story is a bit dark, it answered the essential questions, of what it means to be a family and how family impacts one's identity. Being a family means you're united and willing to stand up for one another. This is represented by Jorj and Ruiying's relationship. Jorj was willing to sacrifice anything for Ruiying's sake, and vice versa. Amelia perfectly represented how family impacts one's identity. Though it wasn't explicitly stated in my story, her hatred stemmed from the lies her adoptive parents told her about Jorj and Ruiying.

In chapter 2, I revealed Amelia's hatred towards Jorj and Ruiying through a thoughtshot. They were unaware of this until Jorj died, which created dramatic irony. Another example of a thoughtshot was Ruiying's thoughts after Jorj's death. It moved the plot forward and eventually led to her killing Amelia.

An example of a snapshot was when Amelia was taken away. The scene shows how much Amelia meant to Jorj. It utilizes sensory details, specifically sight, sound, and touch. "He watched helplessly, paralyzed as his sister was taken away." (chapter 4) The following quote shows the sensory detail sight.

Though there were many examples of dialogue, a significant one would be Ruiying's conversation with Jorj in chapter 3. The purpose of this quote was to build towards their reunion with Amelia. Another example of dialogue is when Ruiying asked about the necklace. She says, "So this necklace was Amelia's?" and Jorj says, "Yeah." The quote served to set up a motif in the story, the necklace.

The purpose of the motif, the necklace, was to symbolize Amelia's dark plans. As the story went on, and her plans turned more vicious, the necklace also turned darker. The second motif was Amelia's birthmark. It symbolizes her connections to Jorj and Ruiying, as it was how Jorj recognized her.