

Tales of a Mercenary

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The Tale of a young teenage girl named Jade, who lost her parents to a group of enemies that call themselves "Illusion". Now...she has a rather weird adventure in front of her.

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1 - Chapter 1

A sack of silver made contact with the palm of her hand. An elderly voice spoke. "This is barely enough of what I owe you. Thanks to you, I am able to finish work in peace. 'Tis a shame to see you go." The voice came from an aged man, who was quite short, and an extremely wrinkled face. The mayor of the town.

As a young girl pocketed the money, she replied with "It's been my pleasure." The girl had beautiful, raven black, waist long hair, extremely pale skin, and blood red eyes. She wore a dress that reached all the way down to her knees, and was layered in different warm colors to resemble a fire. She had a simple leather satchel slung over her shoulder, and a sheath for a sword by her side. This girl was a mercenary, a traveler who protected the towns and cities she came by...for a price.

The girl's name was Jade, a youth born in a community full of thieves, thugs, and well, not nice people. Once she was old enough to walk properly, her parents took her and left the town to find a more civilized place to live. They became mercenaries, and were quite successful for a few years, until they were killed on a job. According to what Jade was told, her parents were killed by members of an organization called "Illusion". For 5 years, she was raised in a town near the place where her parents died. The town's name was Velena Village, a small, peaceful, and friendly village that welcomed Jade with open arms. The Mayor of the Village, Mayor Richards, made sure Jade received plenty of attention and was raised properly. He also held onto the money her parents had when they got killed. It was like that until Jade was 10, when the Mayor told her every detail of what happened to parents, and the organization Illusion. He had told Jade that she ought to start practicing with fighting, for it may be needed someday. The village blacksmith made a sword out of pure silver, just for her. For the next 2 years, Jade had practiced her sword fighting skills. She was a little shaky at first (and has the scars to prove it), but she grew to be a fine swordswoman. But that still wasn't enough to prepare her for the day Illusion invaded Velena Village, obviously after the fortune Jade's parents had left behind. They forced Mayor Richards to give up the money, or they would personally kill everyone in town. The Mayor gave them the money right away. In the end, no one was harmed, but Jade always wondered what would have happened if the Mayor didn't cave in so easily.

Shortly after the attack on Velena Village, Mayor Richards had to send Jade out on the road, to support herself. It was the village people's demand. They protested that Illusion would come back, just because Jade was in the village. Obviously, the people of the village were petrified of the organization. So, the Mayor had no choice but to send the 12 year old girl out to live on her own. In about 3 days of walking, Jade found a town being harassed by a band of Thugs, and offered to help the town out with her sword skills. Within a few days, the thugs had been run out of the town, and the people gave her a good amount of money as a thanks. It reminded Jade of her mother and father, the mercenaries that did jobs that she just did. For the next 2 years, Jade did just the same, offering her services for money, and earned herself somewhat of a reputation. Also, over the years, she has hardened and became a bit more quiet than the little girl that used to live in Velena Village. She grew a bit cold-hearted, and hard to trust anybody.

And now, Jade has made one promise to herself: She will get revenge for her parent's death. At all costs.

2 - Chapter 2

"Honestly, you showed up just at the right time. We only just recently started getting terrorized by those scoundrels, and there has been a rumor of needing to call the army! Hah, to think of that!". Jade followed silently, behind the overly-social woman guiding her to the quarters she would live in while helping the town of Hidaku. It was a pretty urban town, walls mainly made of bricks, and a good amount of residents lived in trailer homes. Jade couldn't imagine what thieves would want here. "Well, here we are. Do you need any more assistance?"

Jade, who had been staring at the ground all this time, looked up. She wasn't surprised to see the small house was made out of bricks. By the looks of it, it's been there for a while. Moss was growing on the bricks. It was also one story high. Jade gave a shake of her head to the woman, and went inside.

One large room and a bathroom. Whatever. Jade carelessly threw her rucksack to the side, layed down on the bed, and then next thing she knew, she was asleep.

Around 4 hours later, 3 loud knocks were heard on the door. Jade groaned. She absolutely hated getting up after sleeping. Rubbing her eyes, she walked lazily over to the door, and opened it.

"Are you Jade? The town sent me over to ask you for help...". A boy, who looked around Jade's age, stood at the door. He had dark blue hair, with bangs that stuck out a bit. He was fairly tall, with a black collared leather jacket and beige cargo pants. He had a bow slung across his back, with a stock of arrows at his left side. Clearly, this boy was an archer. "Already?", Jade replied after yawning a bit. The boy nodded. "There's some bandits harrasing folks downtown. The town's militia is on training right now. So, can you help us?"

Jade sighed. Might as well, there's nothing else to do. She nodded, and went back into the house to get her sword. When she came back out, she heard the boy's voice say "Ready to go? I'm gonna help with the fighting, so we're headed to the same place." After Jade nodded, the boy smiled. "Good. Name's Kykuari, (A/N-Ky-koo-are-ee XD), by the way, but mostly everybody calls my Ky. Let's get going..."

As Jade and Ky walked through the center of Hikadu, Jade noticed how empty the town was. They must be frightened of bandits, Jade thought. Some houses had boarded up windows and doors. Others had "Go away" signs hanging from their doors.

When Ky stopped and told her that they were in downtown Hikadu, Jade didn't see anything wrong at first. But then she saw the broken windows and open doors swinging in the wind on some houses. Then she heard faint yelling and commotion coming from a house northeast of her. Apparently Ky noticed it as well, and signaled her to follow him to the house. The 2 of them leaned against a wall, listening to what was going on inside the house. Ky nodded. "Yeah, that's the bandits alright. There's probably a family hiding deep inside the house somewhere, too. How about, we go in, you try to find the people, and I take care of the bandits?"

Jade thought over the plan. "Depends on how much bandits there are." Then she only realised she

heard 2 different voices. "Forget what I just said, it sounds like a good plan. Try getting them from behind, though." Ky nodded once more, and they headed to the open doors of the house. On the inside, the hallway split into 2 paths. "You take the left path, and hopefully find the people, and I'll go to the right to get to the bandits. Remember to stay quiet" Ky whispered, and then fully opened the door. Jade silently walked to the left. Any minute now, she would probably hear more noise. She hoped Ky would do a good job of eliminating the bandits; this would be more challenging to do this on her own. Jade wound up in a large room, with a couch, TV, and a few children toys laying on the ground. Jade heard slight whimpering coming from a closet. She walked over, close to the location where the noise came from, and stood still. Nothing. She opened up the closet door. 2 children were inside, a boy and a girl. They looked somewhat like twins. Jade quickly picked both of them up, and to her surprise, they didn't fight back. As she placed them on the couch, Jade asked them "Do you know where your Mom and Dad are?". The girl twin shook her head. "Mommy and Daddy ran away when mean people came into house."

Jade was a little shocked at her response. A mother and father, running away, leaving their children to die at the hands of the bandits? Suddenly, Jade heard a bandit almost screaming, and the door shutting violently. A few seconds later, Ky walked into the room. "They won't be coming back any time soon." He walked over to the couch, and saw the twins. "Ah, thought so...Where are the parents?" "Gone. Went out of the house when the bandits came" Jade shook her head sadly.

Then the door was heard in motion again, and a woman's voice called "Oh...My house! It's ruined!". The twins suddenly jumped up and ran out of the room, with happy expressions on their face. Jade and Ky froze on the spot. Now that the bandits ran away, and they were the only one in the house that was a mess...Ky spoke up."Jade, when we get banned from the town, we can go to my Uncle's house, on the outskirts of town. He's an inventor and has a ton of weird gizmos in his place."

3 - Chapter 3

"Hey, Uncle Gisuki, what does this do?" "Kykuari, don't touch that!". Jade sighed as she heard the commotion in the other room. Just as Ky predicted, they were kicked out of town. But with a twist: Jade and Ky just happened to have been the the MAYOR'S house. How ironic, Jade thought. She was lucky Ky had his uncle on the outskirts of town. The 2 have been living with his Uncle Gisuki for about a week now. Just as Ky had mentioned, Gisuki was quite an inventor. His basement was full of gizmos and gadgets, metals and blinking lights. The invention that caught Jade's interest the most was a sort of portal thing, that Gisuki seemed to avoid telling them what it was for. Well, he avoided telling Ky, anyway. Jade didn't ask herself, since she had a feeling she was better off not knowing.

During her week stay at Gisuki's house, Jade got to know Ky a bit more. He was quite a character. Jade could explain him in 4 words that all began with c's: Calm, collected, curious, chatty. A very odd mix. He seemed to have a split personality. But in addition to that, he was also...well, funny. He was good enough to make Jade laugh with a sarcastic comment about his Uncle's salad. And Jade couldn't even remember the last time she laughed.

Ky's Uncle, Gisuki, though, was a short, (real short. Almost about up to Jade's elbows.) round man with a quick temper. He was also always scolding Ky for his behavior, and then walking off mumbling about when he was a child. Half of the time Jade and Ky never saw him around the house; only around breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Ky told Jade he was most likely down in his basement. The 2 rarely went down there, since they spent most of their time playing air hockey in the den upstairs.

But one evening, Gisuki called the 2 down to his basement, and led them over to the portal they have been so curious about. "Children", he announced, "My latest invention is complete. I call it the...the...Well, I haven't thought of the name yet, but besides that it's complete, I'll let you know that. After rolling his eyes, Ky asked him "So, aren't you going to tell us what it does?". His uncle flashed a large grin. "This machine is capable of sending any object to any world of your choice. You just need an object from that world." Ky grabbed a Game Boy Advanced cartridge from a nearby desk. "Fire Emblem...So, if I were put this in the machine, would whatever were send through it would end up in Elibe (A/N: The FE7 world, for those that didn't know.)?" Gisuki looked at the game closely. "Well, I suppose...". Jade spoke underneath her breath. "Fire Emblem. Good game, too bad I stunk at keeping people alive." Ky apparently heard her, and snickered. "Let's use this as my first subject", Gisuki said. "Wai-wait! Would I get my game back?" Ky's voice was suddenly panicked. Gisuki laughed. "Don't worry, my boy, you could take anything from another world you insert out." Ky sighed. "Alright, let's see how this works..."

As Gisuki put the game cartridge in the portal slot, Jade and Ky looked around for something to send through the portal. "Will this rock work?" Jade held up a stone she found in a corner. "...Hey, Uncle Gisuki, why is there a rock in your basement?" Ky turned to his uncle. Gisuki looked in that direction. "...No clue...Anyway, it should work now, so come over here with that rock." As Jade placed the rock on the pedestal in front of the portal, Gisuki warned them "Now stand back, I'm not sure if a human could get sucked through this baby." Suddenly, Gisuki pressed the button on the portal. A large pink shock of electricity came shooting out of the portal, not aiming at the rock...But at the 2 teenagers behind it. When Jade and Ky suddenly vanished, Gisuki was left in his basement alone. "Oh...whoops. Looks like a

human can go through it. Hmm..." and then scuttled off to his room.

"Wha-what just happened?!" Jade stood up and looked around. She was in an alleyway of some sort of town, with Ky sitting right next to her. "Well, according to memory, my ever-so-brilliant uncle just zapped us into Elibe..." Ky's face lit up. "Oh, sweet! We're in Elibe!". The boy stood on his feet quickly. "I know this world from back to front. I beat Fire Emblem 6 times...Too bad I have no clue where this is." Jade laughed. "Wow, you're a big help." Then she grew a bit more serious. "But really...What are we going to do? We don't know our way back, we have no clue where we are, and we don't know anybody..." Then she thought. "Well, maybe we could find someone from the game. But I doubt they could help us..." Ky nodded. "But we're not gonna get anywhere just standing here. Let's go!" Ky walked forward, to the more robust area of the town the 2 were in. Jade followed closely, and when they got out of the alley, she looked around.

It was a nice town. It had a middle ages feel to it, with stone houses and stone streets. People were walking and running past varied stalls, and there were horse carriages crossing the streets. In the distance, a large castle could be seen. After a moment, Ky spoke up. "Well, I still don't know where we are. Maybe we can ask someone..." Just then, another person collided with him. A bunch of groceries spilled all over the place, and both Ky and the other person were on the ground in seconds. "Oh dear--I'm so sorry!" A unfamiliar female voice was heard. "Eh, it's alright...just watch where you're going..." Ky helped the girl pick up the raiming food off the ground. As they both stood up, Jade got a good look at the girl. She had long, blond hair, with ocean blue eyes. She wore a blue top, with a matching blue skirt and boots, and had a short sword strapped to her side. "Hey, do you know where we are...?" Jade questioned. The girl looked at her, puzzled. "How could you not know? You're in Ostia." Jade quickly replied with "We're from...far away. We just got here." The other girl smiled. "Oh, I should have known...Do you need help getting around?" When Jade and Ky nodded at the same time, she said "Alright, I can help you with that...But I need to get all of these groceries home. You're either gonna have to come with me, or wait." Jade rolled her eyes. "I think we'll go with you. Knowing this kid's curiosity, we'll get lost in no time." Ky shot her a glare, but was ignored. "Okay, then...My name is Starrina. How about you 2?" Before Ky could speak, Jade made him close his mouth.

"I'm Jade. And this Kykuari." Ky snapped back with "No! That's my demon name." His eye twitched. "Call my Ky. Please." Starrina laughed, and said "Alright, Jade and Ky, right? Follow me, please..."