

TOLYN TO BE

Written by

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EXT. SWORD SHARPENER SHOP - DAY

In HAVERLY, a medieval town, a VILLAGER sharpens a royal sword, stops, and checks the blade. They wipe the blade off and hand it over to TOLYN AUGUSTINE.

SHARPENER

Prince Tolyn, I believe you now  
have the sharpest blade in all of  
Haverly.

TOLYN AUGUSTINE, age 15, is by all outward appearances a handsome royal boy. However, to respect Tolyn's wishes, the pronoun that would best fit is they/them/their.

TOLYN

My sword is ever so grateful. Now  
let us hope I shall never need to  
use it.

A YOUNG GIRL walks up with her MOTHER and curtsies.

Tolyn smiles and begins to bow, but instead curtsies back. The faces of the mother and the villager appear perplexed.

GIRL

(laughs)  
Boys don't curtsy.

Her mother gives her a disapproving look and SHUSHES her.

GIRL (CONT'D)

But he's not a princess.

Tolyn's joy dissipates into embarrassment. They quickly mount SNICKLEFRITZ, their loyal white horse.

TOLYN

(leans into the horse)  
Let's go, Snicklefritz.

They gallop away down the dirt road.

EXT. HAVERLY TOWN CENTER - DAY

Tolyn passes through the bustling village. Farm animals mingle amongst the townspeople in the medieval times setting.

Tolyn wipes a tear that streams down their face.

As they weave through the town, their head turns to women, men, and boys who nod while teenage girls curtsy in a flirty tone directed at Haverly's Prince Tolyn.

Upon noticing the curtsies, Tolyn's face turns angry as their foot kicks Snicklefritz to go faster.

EXT. HAVERLY TOWN CEMETERY - DAY

They look around and proceed with a fancy dismount off of Snicklefritz.

Tolyn's face seeps into a somber expression when they notice a family that surrounds a gravesite. The family places flowers on the grave as the sounds of their WHIMPERS grow.

Tolyn looks down at their empty hands.

TOLYN (V.O.)  
 Oh, just splendid. A reminder how horrible I am at this grieving thing.

Tolyn bends over to pick some various flowers.

TOLYN (V.O.)  
 Maybe these flowers will help me find my tears.

Tolyn stops at a few neglected gravestones and places some of the flowers on them, then proceeds on through the cemetery.

TOLYN (V.O.)  
 If not, then I shall grieve these beautiful flowers who did not willingly donate their life to my cause.

EXT. GRAVESITE OF LIRA - DAY

Tolyn arrives at a well-tended royal gravesite set far off from the others. They stare at the gravestone.

The gravestone reads QUEEN LIRA OF HAVERLY, 1377-1418.

They bend over to place the flowers, but changes their mind.

TOLYN (V.O.)  
 (perturbed/angry)  
 Why hello, mother.

Tolyn picks each petal off one by one and throws the naked stem at the grave.

TOLYN (V.O.)  
 I still hold heaps of anger and  
 have yet to weep since you  
 departed.

They lie down on the grass and look up at the sky.

TOLYN (V.O.)  
 Now I walk with shame and questions  
 that stir in my head like a storm  
 that rains honey. I forever  
 reimagine my birth story because...  
 Well, because mother, your death  
 has left me to live with your  
 biggest secret.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HALLWAY IN HAVERLY CASTLE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

KING WESTIN AUGUSTINE of Haverly, age 40, is a handsome manly  
 man who can't escape the weathered look of stress.

He paces in the hall with his hands behind his back.

Female screaming is heard. King Westin stops and puts his ear  
 up to the door.

BEATRICE, age 60, is an assertive midwife with a loving  
 grandma appearance.

She opens the door and almost bumps into King Westin.

BEATRICE  
 King Westin, there is still a long  
 way to go. The Queen feels your  
 worried presence and requests you  
 worry elsewhere.

Beatrice shoos him away.

KING WESTIN  
 Very well. I will be in my study  
 working.

BEATRICE  
 I shall send for you as soon as the  
 baby has arrived.

The female bellows in pain from the other room.

(If you enjoyed, a script request would be adored.)