

## The Man

Nesta Sits upright?



*Illustration 32: General Wilhelmina stepping out of Light Hole*

From Nesta's diary.

“He has done what?” The Man surprised, “Surely this is not his idea, he is incapable of such thoughts,” when it was reported a girl had been appointed a General to raise an army to defeat him.

And I looked at her hologram that arose out of Tintagel the Clones notepad and saw at once a girl in armour, without padding for comfort and was alarmed for here was one who was a real soldier like The Man.

“I am told what regiments she trains half desert and she is happy master,”  
Tintagel.

And I saw at once why she this new general was happy with what she had left,  
men and women who wanted to be soldiers and who followed Wilhelmina not  
Augustus.

“We shall see what their mantle is made of, where are they stationed, better to eat  
the hard boiled egg before to many eggs appear,” The Man and he was not amused  
for he saw the threat such a general was too him, why she could be one of his  
deserters and did ask Tintagel to search the military lists for one.

But none was found.

“Is that wise master, if her men defeat you the moral boost to this new general will  
be unstoppable, let us keep nibbling away at the empire weakening it and by  
weakening the empire we weaken this new army of Augustus of supplies,” Tintagel  
his opinion.

I liked The Man’s idea, maybe it was woman’s jealousy speaking, a woman knows  
instinctively when a threat to her position has appeared and wants to deal with it  
before the opposition gets out of hand.

I studied the hologram carefully; the girl was handsome, only a man would see her  
as a boy.

“Augustus is not worthy of such loyalty,” The Man was saying, “where has this  
girl come from,” and immediately knew FEAR for that is what was said about The  
Man.

“Surely this woman has morals and courage and lots of wisdom and can gaze at the stars,” I advised and there was silence. What I had said frightened them all, “why else will men fight for her and not Augustus?”

“She is crazy, deluded, her oath is to a man not worthy of her allegiance,” Tintagel, “why it is said he ordered her to have him and she still swears loyalty. It is said she obeyed because her liege commanded and cried for her heart was elsewhere.”

“She took an oath and once you start breaking oaths you become spineless, is that what Augustus wants, to break her, is he frightened of her too, or is he such a fool he doesn’t know what his actions will do? Tintagel you must get her onto our side,” The Man”.

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“It was said Augustus took his new general the day he appointed her to her lofty rank for he thought it a game and by his action showed his old generals he favoured them but was allowing the girl lee way to see what she could produce.

I don’t think Augustus believed anyone could save him from HE WHO CONDEMNS THE GUILTY but the girl was comforting for her firmness gave him hope and where there is hope no FEAR.

For The Man’s sake I hope Augustus’s immoral action for it was so, drives his new general away but for my sake not into the arms of my man The Man.

This new general had set an example to all her troops. Obey your emperor for he is the emperor. Augustus does not deserve such loyalty.

And a horrid wish also born from jealousy came into the right side of my head, “It would be cool if she was burned a witch,” and shut the thought off for it was so cruel and hideous.

But in my heart I knew this new general was not a spark in the pan. In fact looking at her hologram that I had badgered Tintagel for I can see the girl is a girl, built much along my own build. Not as stunning but then I am full of The Master Priest’s genes. The girl looked rustic as if fresh from a farm, used to getting up early to milk the cows and collect the eggs. Just the type of girl a hungry looting soldier hopes to find searching for fresh bread.

And that was why she obeyed her emperor, she was naïve.