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Elisa's Short Story

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Philippines

"A girl is lost in Main Street... She's 10 years old..." My mom said with uneasy voice.

"Have you seen her? Please... Please... Have you seen my little girl...? Please..." She cried.

It was all I can hear that moment...

My name is Elisa Lopez. My mother called my name everywhere without knowing that I was just beside her every time she walks or runs. A week ago, I saw my picture on pieces of paper posted off on the walls in our street.

"Missing: Elisa Lopez"

I came from Baguio City, the town of delight, located at the top of the mountain. I am a 10 year old girl who unintentionally skipped life and has freely given death. I will only tell you what I can remember...

One afternoon, my mother and I went down to market to buy some food for dinner to we want to surprise my father to his birthday. The market was called "Main Street". It was a name of a guy who saved the market from fire. Some people said that he has extra-ordinary powers and he saved many lives. He was truly like a hero, but he vanished straightaway and never came back, that's why the town people thought that he was already dead and gone. Well, it was the history of this market. It was a history that I never believed when I was alive. If he's a hero, why didn't he come back and save me?

Main Street was a very popular market. Almost all of the people from different towns were coming over every afternoon. I saw different people with their colorful wares. I ask mom to buy me some candies but she refused.

"The sweets will swallow your teeth, wanna try?"

I looked away with frightened eyes. I turned my attention to a little boy who was playing a puppet. He was nine steps away from me. He looked at me with a sweet smile like a candy then he shouted, *"Hey! Come, try this!"*

I slipped my hand on mom's hand and run towards the boy and I heard mom says, *"Elisa! Where are you going?"* Because of excitement, I didn't look back. I also knew that she's watching me anyway. Suddenly, a black guy appeared in front of me. He was big and scary. He covered my mouth and pulled me up and tightly wrapped his arms around me. I tried to scream for help but I felt so dizzy so I fell asleep.

When I woke up, I was lying on a red carpet naked. Man on top of me feeling me up and everything, and I'd tell him to stop and try to move away, I couldn't move because he had grip on my arms. I screamed and shouted for help but the man put cloth in my mouth. The man on top of me was naked, I just layed there on the red carpet and cried and then it happened.

As I scream and telling the man on top of me to stop, I saw other three men when I looked around. The first man was holding a cigarette on his right hand and the other one beside him has a cigarette on his mouth. The last man was working with a straw, sipping on a silver paper. I didn't know what he was doing. I tried to move but I can't and I felt like my whole body was aching. Still I couldn't scream because I have cloth in my mouth. I looked down and looking to myself naked, I just felt so violated, dirty, depraved, and rueful. I screamed loudly and my tears keeps dreeping. But I realized, my throat can't produce any sound.

After he was done, the man on my top me went and sit on a couch, lit a cigarette. Then the other man came near me.

"Shut up! No one can hear you! You're ours now", said the man with a cigarette on his hand.

I still moved after he tied my hands and tried to break free but now I'm here stuck and feeling like sh*t.

The one with a straw stood up, came towards me and said, *"You little mice, no one will rescue you!"*

He beat me in my stomach and slapped my face then he spit on my chest. They killed me by bashing my head against the wall, dropped a stone on my head to stop me from crying, they never satisfy, so they bludgeoned me while they hung me upside down. They took my life! my dignity! Everything!

Right now and then, I can't do anything but watch my mom cry every time she remembers me. I want to hug her tight and fall asleep in her arms. She was so sad when I left her. She goes everywhere and asks my name. I wish I could bring back the time when I slipped off my hands. I wish I didn't skip my life just for a puppet to try.

I wish I looked back...