

The Elite Script

Written By

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Based on, if any

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INT. ORPHANAGE; GIRLS ROOM; MORNING.

HANNAH BENNETT:

(In her head.)

I know it's time to get up after I feel the cold winter air hitting my feet and the morning sunrise trying to pierce through my eyelids.

I quickly slide me knees towards my chest to get my feet under the blanket again.

(In her head.)

The supervisor, Ms. Caine, likes to open the window to wake us up; even in the winter.

MS. CAINE:

(Yelling.)

Get up ladies, now! I want everyone in the kitchen in five minutes.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Hears the other girls groan out loud as they begin to wake up. She cuddles under her blanket in the fetal position.

(In her head.)

Just five more minutes, please,
just five more minutes.

But no, she tosses the covers off her body and sits up instead to look over the room. She shivers as she hops down off the top of her bunk and then walks to her trunk at the end of the bed. Quickly, she pulls her clothes out to change into. She slips her nightgown off and pulls her wool dress on over her head.

She reaches for her socks and shoes, but pauses when she sees the picture and just stares at it.

(In her head.)

I always feel sorrow and anger when I see this photo. It's of my parents, holding me right after I was born. I can only see their hands though, not their bodies or

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their faces. My eyes are always pulled to the same spot though. On my mother's wrist is a tattoo of the infinity symbol.

She touches the photo lightly, just brushing it.

(In her head.)

I wonder why my parents left me here.

(Pauses.)

I'm an orphan, but people love to call us 'scraps.' There's about a hundred of us; evenly split between boys and girls. We're the children people didn't want. I have grown up here all my life because my parents left me orphan right after my birth. I don't know who they are, but I can't help but feel hatred for them. Why would they do this to me?

She tucks the photo back in her trunk and quickly puts her socks and shoes on before running her brush through her hair. She locks her trunk and then looks up to see the room empty.

(Out loud.)

Shit!

She begins to run to the kitchen, knowing she's already late.

INT. ORPHANAGE; KITCHEN; MORNING

HANNAH BENNETT:

Enters the kitchen, seeing all of the girls and boys lined up in a single file line, ready for roll call. She sees Ms. Caine has already started calling names. She slowly and quietly walks walks to the end of the line.

MS. CAINE:

Spots Hannah sneaking in and begins walking towards her.

(Sternly.)

Hannah Bennett! Did I not say be down here in five minutes?

HANNAH BENNETT:

Looks down at the grungy floor tile.

(Nods.)

Yes ma'am.

MS. CAINE:

Are you going to be a troublemaker
when you leave the orphanage Ms.
Bennett?

HANNAH BENNETT:

Looks back up to see Ms. Caine's eyes beaming at her. Hannah
rubs her sweating hands together.

No ma'am. I'm not going to be a
troublemaker.

MS. CAINE:

Finally stops gawking at Hannah and walks away to finish
roll call.

(Loudly.)

Now everyone listen up. Some of you
will be going to The Ceremony
tomorrow morning. No matter what
you're results are, tonight will be
your last night with us. After
tomorrow, you will no longer be
orphans, but will unfortunately
become full-fledged members of the
society.

(Sneering.)

HANNAH BENNETT:

(In her head.)

Damn, I forgot tomorrow was the The
Ceremony. Every child who is
18-years-old will find out their
fate then. We will all have our DNA
tested to determine if we have the
strength-gene or the
intellect-gene.

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HANNAH BENNETT: (CONT'D)

If someone has the strength-gene, they will be drafted into The Guard, where we will be trained as soldiers to defend our city. If someone has the intellect-gene, they will be sent to work for The Union. The Union are the leaders of our society, our government, and they also hold all of the positions in medicine and education.

If you have are in The Guard or The Union, you are a member of The Elite. You must have an elite-gene at a dominant level to be drafted into these groups. If you don't have either elite-gene at a dominant level, you will just join the general population, who work as manufacturer's and other blue-collar jobs.

There is one caveat to being a member of The Elite though. You can't be involved in romantic relationships to have children. This will ensure keeping the elite-gene pool pure.

Everyone wants their child to be a member of The Elite. However, no child from The Orphanage has ever been found to have an elite-gene.

MS. CAINE:

Today is just another day though for all of you. Everyone needs to finish their chores before you can go on your merry ways.

(Rolling her eyes.)

Taking her clipboard and flipping a page over.

(Loudly.)

Anderson, Ziegler, Lopez, and Palmer! You four have to clean the sleeping quarters. Get to it!

(Pauses.)
 On bathroom duty is Smith, Rocco,
 England, and Bennett! Have fun you
 guys.
 (Smirking.)

INT. ORPHANAGE; HALLWAY; MORNING

HANNAH BENNETT:
 (In her head.)
 Not again! Why do I always get
 stuck on cleaning up the bathrooms?
 I swear puts me there on purpose.
 It wouldn't surprise me.

Begins walking to the bathrooms, listening to Ms. Caine give other kids their chore list for the day. She continues walking down down the chalk white hallway before she feels a hand grasp her shoulder and pull her.

MALE VOICE:
 Ready to get out of here Hannah?

HANNAH BENNETT:
 Looks up to see a red-haired, green-eyed, tall man smiling down at her.

(In her head.)
 Ah yes. My best friend; Dylan Rocco. Dylan became an orphan when he was six years old. Both of his parents died in a car accident and there was no one to raise him after that. I was the only one who would talk to him when he first came to the orphanage and we've been best friends ever since. Nobody understood me better.

Looking up at Dylan.
 (Out Loud)
 Yeah I'm ready. Are you?

DYLAN ROCCO:

Looking at Hannah

(Smiling.)

Definitely! We can finally say we
are no longer orphans.

HANNAH BENNETT:

(Chuckling.)

I think we will technically always
be considered orphans Dylan.

DYLAN ROCCO:

(Nodding.)

Yeah you're right. Well at least we
only have to scrub the bathrooms
one more time. Then we get to get
out of here and find out the truth
about ourselves. We get to find out
if we're elite.

INT. ORPHANAGE; BATHROOMS; MORNING

HANNAH BENNETT:

Grabs the cleaning supplies out of the closet and begins to
clean the sinks.

(Gagging.)

Come on Dylan, you know no one from
the orphanage has ever been found
to be elite.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Hey, enough with the pessimistic
attitude," he said as he began to
mop the floor. "Today could be our
day. We could be elite. Could you
imagine that?"

HANNAH BENNETT:

(Laughing.)

Fine... I'll be more optimistic.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Splashing some mop water on Hannah's feet.
That's my girl... Now let's get done
cleaning so we can go to The Elite
Ceremony and find out our future.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Finishes cleaning the sinks and moves on to clean the
mirrors, where she catches a glimpse of herself and just
stares for a moment.

(In her head.)

There isn't even a possibility that
I could even have the strength
gene. It's even unlikely that I'll
have the intellect gene, but
there's a greater chance of that
happening.

Watches Ms. Caine walk into the bathrooms to inspect as the
group finishes cleaning them.

MS. CAINE:

Walks around the bathroom, inspecting, her black heels
clicking and clacking along the tiles.

Could always be better, but I
suppose they're good enough for
your last day here. You're
dismissed. You're free to go grab
breakfast and then head over to the
ceremony.

(Snarky.)

Good luck.

INT. ORPHANAGE; KITCHEN; MORNING

Hannah and Dylan make their way to kitchen from the
bathrooms..

HANNAH BENNETT:

(In her head.)

Mmm. Breakfast time. But I wasn't

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HANNAH BENNETT: (CONT'D)

hungry though. I had a knot in my stomach that food would only upset. I felt like I needed to vomit, but nothing ever came up. What's wrong with me. I shouldn't be nervous today.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Grabs a bowl of mashed oatmeal and sits down at a table with Hannah. He leans his bowl towards her.

You sure you don't want anything to eat?

HANNAH BENNETT:

Putting her hand up and shaking her head.

No thanks. My days of eating cold oatmeal mush are over. Good riddance.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Shovels a few more scoops of oatmeal in his mouth until the bowl was empty.

(Chuckles and nods.)

Do you want to head over to the ceremony a while? Get there a little early?

HANNAH BENNETT:

(Nods.)

Sure.

Walking past the girls room on her way out, Hannah stops and peers in the room. Walks into the room and opens her trunk to retrieve the picture of her parents holding her. Tucks the photo in her dress and looks around the room.

(In her head.)

This is it. Goodbye forever.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Peers in the room behind her.
Come on Hannah. Let's get going.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Walks back towards the doorway and turns around once more.
(Quietly.)
Goodbye

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE ORPHANAGE; WALKING THROUGH THE CITY;
LATE MORNING.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Shivers as she walks outside.

(In her head.)

The bitter winter air greeted us as we walked out of the orphanage. Pittsburgh always has cold winters. Well technically the city has no name anymore, but we're in a city that used to be known as Pittsburgh. After the war, our ancestors and founders wanted to find an area that was protected. Pittsburgh was the place they chose. Surrounded by rivers, bridges, and mountains, Pittsburgh was able to keep up safe. The Guard are responsible for patrolling our borders and making sure no one or nothing gets in. We've never been in danger before, just a few black bears and mountain lions here and there, but nothing major.

A lot of the buildings are empty, but there are a few that we remodeled and use regularly. One of these buildings was known as the Fifth Avenue Place. This was where The Elite Ceremony always took place. It was a concrete 31-floor building with tinted blue windows and was pointed at the top of it.

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(CONT'D)

We just call it The Point now.

Reaching The Point, Hannah walks into the building behind Dylan , greeted by a burst of warm air.

INT. THE POINT; LATE MORNING

DYLAN ROCCO:

Looks down at Hannah while they wait for the elevators.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Waiting in line for the elevators, people standing at them.

(In her head.)

People always gawk at us. I could hear some of them muttering, calling us 'scraps.' They called us scraps because we are known as the children no one wanted. We're the leftovers, also known as scraps. Every time someone muttered those words I felt like punching them right in the nose. They didn't even know me, and they're calling me a scrap? It irked me.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Steps into the elevators when it arrives, Hannah following behind him.

INT. THE POINT; THE OCTAGON; LATE MORNING

HANNAH BENNETT:

After arriving on the 30th floor, Hannah followed Dylan off the elevator and walked with him through the auditorium doors in front of us, into the room called The Octagon. Looks at

Pointed to two empty seats in the third row from the front.

(Normal Tone.)
There's two seats.

Sits down in her chair and feels a hard kick coming from behind her.

UNKNOWN MALE VOICE:
(Sarcastically.)
Whoops! Sorry Scrap!

HANNAH BENNETT:

Turning around to give an evil glare at the person.
(In her head.)

I actually recognized the young man who kicked me. He was in my history and math classes in school. He was always picking on Everyone, not just us orphans. If he wasn't incredibly rude, I might actually find him attractive but I don't even remember what his name was.

Turns back around in her seat. Looks up at the white stage with a chair sitting in the middle.

(In her head.)
I guess that's where we will be sitting. It's going to feel like we're at the dentist. The large monitors beside it showed your heartbeat and vitals and the large screen above the chair, on the wall, is where I think your results will be plastered for everyone in the room to see. We had to get tested in front of everyone. I've never been to any of the past ceremonies, but I've heard all about them.

FEMALE VOICE:
Excuse me, may I have everyone's attention please.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Snaps out of her daydreaming to see a woman standing on the stage.

(In her head.)

Helen O'Reilly... the leader of The Ministry. I've always found Helen very snooty and snobbish.

HELEN O'REILLY:

Now that we're all seated, let's get this ceremony underway," she said, clapping her hands together. "Hundreds of years ago, after the war, our founders developed a system that was created to ensure that we formed the best society as possible. This system would ensure the very best people were chosen to defend and lead our great city. Before the war, we had leaders who were inept and combatants who were weak. That failed us as a society. That's why we discovered the technology we needed to discover who were the very best in our society. The fact is, some people are born to be leaders and some are born to be combatants. Everyone else falls in between, which is not a bad thing. All of these parts do their part and create a fully functional society.

Now, what is going to happen is when your name is called you will come up here and sit on the chair. One of our doctor's will hook you up to the machine and your DNA will be analyzed. The machine doesn't hurt, but you will feel just a slight pinch when the IV is inserted in your skin. If an elite gene is found in your body, we will know. If you have the intellect gene, a computer voice will announce 'INTELLECT' across the room and the word will flash across

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(CONT'D)

that screen. If you have the strength gene, the computer will say 'STRENGTH' and that word will flash across the screen instead. However, if you have neither gene at a dominant level, a red X will flash across that screen and you will hear the computer announce 'NEGATIVE,' " Helen said pointing at the screen. "Now I know some of you are nervous. Don't be. You are finding out the rest of your lives today. What could me more exciting?"

HANNAH BENNETT:

Trying to pay attention, but feels a knot in her stomach that's only getting worse. Her hands shaking.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Sees Hannah shaking and grabs a hold of the one and squeezes it, knowing she's nervous.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Looked up and sees Dylan smiling at her.
(Smiles back.)

Refocuses on concentrating on Helen, who was still speaking.

HELEN O'REILLY:

I should remind all of you. If you happen to be an Elite, whether you're a member of The Guard or The Ministry, having children is forbidden. We need to keep the Elite, elite. Just because two elite members have a child, doesn't mean that child will be elite as well. Since having children is forbidden, that means romantic relationships are forbidden as well. We just can't take the risk,"

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HELEN O'REILLY: (CONT'D)

Helen said pursing her lips. "Now, we understand that you may develop feelings for people. That's fine. That's human nature. Just don't act on your feelings. If you do, there will be consequences.

After finishing all the announcements, she starts to call names as she picks up a whicker basket with pieces of paper in it.

Now We normally would call names out in alphabetical order. However, this year we're doing something new. We've put all the names of those being tested into this basket. Your names will be called out randomly.

Picks the first name out of the basket.
Julia Ferris!

HANNAH BENNETT:

Watches Julie go up to the stage and sit down in the chair.
Watches the doctor insert the IV into her arm.

COMPUTER VOICE
INTELLECT.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Looks up at the monitor to see the words "Intellect" flashing on the screen. Looks over at The Ministry section to see everyone clapping, and Julia joining them. She begins to day dream again while Helen kept calling names to come up.

(In her head.)
If I was an elite, what kind of elite would I want to be? Would I want to be with The Guard, or with The Ministry? It's probably wishful thinking. There is absolutely nothing special about me, much less elite.

HELEN O'REILLY:
(Yelling.)
Andrew Wolfe!

HANNAH BENNETT:

Feels her seat move. It was the boy behind her. The one that called her a scrap. Watched as he walked up to the stage and got the IV put in his arm.

COMPUTER VOICE
Strength!

HANNAH BENNETT:

Hears a loud shriek behind her. It was Andrew's parents.

MR. & MRS. WOLFE:
(Cheering.)

MRS. WOLFE:
(Starting to sob.)

HANNAH BENNETT:

Listened to Andrew's mom crying.
(In her head.)
They were happy and proud that they're son was joining The Guard, but a little sad that they would no longer see their son.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Looked down at Hannah.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Looked up at Dylan.
(Rolls eyes and laughs.)
(MORE)

DYLAN ROCCO:
(Laughs.)

HELEN O'REILLY:
Dylan Rocco!

HANNAH BENNETT:
Looks over at Dylan as she hears his name called.

DYLAN ROCCO:
Looks over at Hannah and smiles. Lets go of holding her hand
and taps it lightly. He starts to get up out of his seat.
Moment of truth.

HANNAH BENNETT:
Watches Dylan get up and walk down the stage nonchalantly
and sit in the chair. Watched the doctor insert the IV into
his arm.

DYLAN ROCCO:
Looks at Hannah while waiting for his results.

COMPUTER VOICE:
Intellect!

HANNAH BENNETT:
(Gasped.)

DYLAN ROCCO:
Looks at Hannah, eyes widening, shocked. He then got up out
of the chair and walked over to his fellow Ministry members
who were applauding.

HANNAH BENNETT:

(In her head.)

I couldn't believe it. Dylan was the first orphan to be named an elite. And I probably lost my best friend forever. He had bigger things to worry about now. This would probably be the last time saw him.

HELEN O'REILLY:

Nearing the end of the ceremony, she pulls out the final piece of paper in the basket.

Hannah Bennett!

HANNAH BENNETT:

Looks over at Dylan.

DYLAN ROCCO:

Looking at Hannah.

(Nods.)

HANNAH BENNETT:

Slowly gets up out of her chair and walks past the other people sitting in the same row. Walks down the steps of the sections until she approaches the stage. Walks up the set of stairs towards the chair and sat down. Feels the doctor place the IV on her arm, as it pierces her skin.

(Winces.)

Holds her breathe out of panic, waiting for her results.

COMPUTER VOICE:

Intellect!

HANNAH BENNETT:

(In her head.)

What? I was Elite? Two orphans were Elite this year?

Remains in the chair as the room applauds.

COMPUTER VOICE:
Strength!

HANNAH BENNETT:
(Gasps.)

Looks over at the monitors and doctor, whom looked extremely confused. Looks at Helen, who even looked confused.

HELEN O'REILLY:
Walks over to the doctor.

HANNAH BENNETT:
Looks at Dylan.

DYLAN ROCCO:
Looks at Hannah.
(Shrugs.)

HANNAH BENNETT:
Remains seated in her chair while the room falls silent. Can vaguely hear Helen and the doctor talking.

DOCTOR:
Pointing to the screens.
That's what the computer and
monitors are saying... What do we
do?

HELEN O'REILLY:
(Shrugs.)
I guess we let her chose.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Sees both the doctor and Helen nod before walking towards me. Feels the doctor pull the IV out of her arm.

HELEN O'REILLY:

(Loudly.)

Can I have everyone's attention please?

HANNAH BENNETT:

(Confused.)

Slowly gets up out of the chair and stands next to it.

HELEN O'REILLY:

Ladies and gentlemen. For the first time in the history of our city, we have someone who has tested positive for both elite genes.

HANNAH BENNETT:

Listens to the room as it feels with whispers and mummers.

HELEN O'REILLY:

Wraps her arm around Hannah and pulls her in closely.

So, what we have decided to do is let her decide if she wants to join The Guard or The Ministry.

(Pauses and smiles.)

So, Hannah Bennett, what do you chose?

HANNAH BENNETT:

(In her head.)

I can't believe what is going on. I have both genes? And now they want me to choose where I want to spend the rest of my life? No one else

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HANNAH BENNETT: (CONT'D)
had to go through this.

I would like to go with The
Ministry, just so I could stay with
Dylan. But on the other hand, I
hate most of those intellect people
who think they're better than
everyone else. What do I do? I just
have to pick. Just do it Hannah.

Looks at Helen and then back out at the crowd.
I choose The Guard.