

Extract from **Carpe Diem**  
By Ella Thompson

© Ella Thompson, 2013. All rights reserved.

---

**Characters**

**Ai'shah**

**Jacob**

**Carry**

**Joshua**

**Tyler**

---

AI'SHAH: Hey what they doing?

JACOB: Well that ain't a football.

CARRY: What is it then?

AI'SHAH: Oh my!

CARRY/JACOB: What?

AI'SHAH: I think it might be a hedgehog.

CARRY: What? No way.

AI'SHAH: I don't know. It looks like it.

CARRY: Oh my God. That's just sick.

AI'SHAH: It's horrible, poor thing.

JACOB: What the fuck is wrong with people?

AI'SHAH: Oh I can't look.

CARRY: What should we do?

AI'SHAH: Should we go tell a teacher?

JACOB: No we're all bunking lessons...well come on den.

CARRY: What?

JACOB: Well we've gotta save the little fucker.

**Scene 7. Hedgehog Rescue Mission**

A field. Ai'shah, Carry and Jacob approach the group.

JOSHUA: And then I said go fuck yourself, I'm off to smoke some weed. Aw look it's Jakey and his new BFFs. Where's your bag Jacob?

*(All students laugh)*

*Pause.*

JOSHUA: What you staring at?

JACOB: Stop it.

STUDENT: What did you say?

JACOB: Stop it, you twats.

JOSHUA Ohh! Look at this bad man. Go fuck yourself.

TYLER: *(Quietly)* Jacob, what are you doing? You're gonna get me killed.

JACOB: What am I doing? What are you doing Tyler?

AI'SHAH: Just stop hurting this animal and we'll go.

JOSHUA Why don't you fuck off back to your own country?

CARRY: Shut up you dick head.

JOSHUA: Wow, this bitch can bark. Hey, Tyler, yours dogs are twats.

CARRY: No Tyler's the twat.

TYLER: Shut it, Carry.

*Joshua kicks the hedgehog more forcefully this time.*

AI'SHAH: Stop it! No!

*Jacob grabs Carry's lighter from her pocket.*

JACOB: Stop it now or I'll burn you!

JOSHUA I'd like to see you fucking try.

*Jacob burns Joshua's arm.*

JOSHUA: Ah! You little shit! You're not fucking getting away with that!

*Jacob is punched by Joshua. He falls to the floor. He then kicks Joshua.*

JOSHUA You---

CARRY: Get away from him!

TYLER: Look these guys are alright Josh, just leave it out yeah?

*Jacob spits at Joshua.*

JOSHUA: Right!

*Joshua takes out a knife from his jacket. Everyone is silent. Some time.*

JOSHUA: Shame this had to happen over a hedgehog.

CARRY: Look, we didn't mean to cause any trouble. We didn't re---

*Jacob slowly begins to get up.*

JOSHUA: You move and I'll use it.

JACOB: Look, Josh, we were only messing around.

JOSHUA: Course! ...I know. I need a new phone. Give him your bag bitch.

*Ai'shah hands over her bag. Student pours the contents onto the floor.*

JOSHUA: Oh. What's this? A doormat?

*Joshua wipes his feet on Ai'shah's prayer mat.*

AI'SHAH: Stop that!

JOSHUA: What you gonna do? I've got the knife, you twat. Next.

*Carry pours the contents of her bag onto the floor.*

JOSHUA: Ohh! Nice Phone. Is this 3GS?

CARRY: 4S.

JOSHUA: Nice. *(To Jacob)* Where's that lunchbox of yours.

JACOB: Left it.

JOSHUA: Ha! Liar. . Pass it.

JACOB: No.

JOSHUA: Let's see what in it.

JACOB: No.

JOSHUA: What's in it?

JACOB: Just sandwiches.

JOSHUA: They must be some pretty valuable sandwiches.

JACOB: They're just sandwiches.

JOSHUA: Give them here then, those “sandwiches”.

JACOB: No!

JOSHUA Mate, you seem to be forgetting that I’m the one with the knife.

*Jacob hands over the lunchbox.*

JOSHUA: Hey, look on the bright side guys. At least the hedgehog’s snuck away yeah? That’s what you wanted huh?

*Joshua opens the lunchbox and drops it, shocked. He lets out a high pitched scream.*

*All the others laugh.*

JOSHUA: Oh my fucking God.

CARRY: You scream like a girl.

JOSHUA: Shut up. Look. Look!

CARRY: What is it?

AI’SHAH: Oh my God!

JACOB: Get away!

TYLER: What the hell’s in it?

JOSHUA: Only a fucking dead rat!

CARRY: What? Oh. Oh no. Your hamster.

JACOB: She’s not a rat you dick. She’s a rare breed of half Polynesian---half Siberian---pedigree hamster!

CARRY: Fucking hell.

AI’SHAH: Wait. Your hamster? The one that died?

JOSHUA: You brought your dead hamster to school? In your lunchbox?

CARRY: Fucking hell Jacob.

JOSHUA: *(distressed)* Freak.

TYLER: Wait... *(To Joshua)* Why are you shaking?

JOSHUA: It’s cold.

TYLER: It’s July.

JOSHUA: It’s a cold July.

TYLER: You scared of da hamster?

CARRY: Oh my God, he is!

TYLER: He's fucking petrified.

JOSHUA: I got a phobia, kay?

TYLER: You're shit scared of a hamster?

JOSHUA: I just don't like 'em. Specially not dead ones.

*All the others laugh and mock him.*

JOSHUA: Fuck off.

*Exit Joshua, Tyler and friends. As they leave Tyler passes them back their phones. Ai'shah and Carry are putting their possessions back into their bags.*

AI'SHAH: Poor Jacob. Are you O.K.?

CARRY: What about me? He took my phone.

JACOB: No I'm not O.K! Where's Dumpling?

CARRY: Your hamster?

JACOB: Yeah. Where is he?

AI'SHAH: Oh my goodness! Jacob! He's alive! Look! Look! Near Carry!

*Carry picks up dumpling.*

CARRY: "Well I'll be damned."

JACOB: Dumpling!

*Carry hands Dumpling over to Jacob. He begins to cry with happiness.*

AI'SHAH: Aw cute.

CARRY: Weird...

AI'SHAH: ...

JACOB: I'm so happy you're alive.

*Some time.*

CARRY: Well... Do you guys wanna go get a Subway?

*They exit.*