

Extract taken from Chapter Eighteen of *Silverbrook: Yumna and the Golden Horse* by Yasmin Abdel-Magied.

Yumna or Nafisa, who were following the conversation ping back and forth like a tennis match. Not Mr Sulaiman, or Abdullah. One minute, they were talking to Mrs Hardy about the choir, the next, they were being frogmarched off the green.

Yumna's mind raced. There had never been security at a market before. It was a local village market, why would they need security? But there were three men in yellow vests, just 'doing their job' and another man in a leather jacket who looked familiar . . .

'Norton!?' Yumna said, as the nerdy man she had gone nature exploring with pushed Abdullah's shoulder. 'What are you doing here?'

'Norton works for us,' Hector said in Yumna's direction. 'He's a loyal servant of the Maidstones, and has been with the family for many years.'

Yumna couldn't believe it. She shrugged away from the security guard that was trying to move her along. Getting in between Norton and her father, she looked up at the man who less than 24 hours ago, she would have considered a new friend.

'Norton, what are you doing here?'

Norton shrugged. 'My job, lassie.'

'I don't understand – you told me . . .' She searched for the words, then spotted Mr Turner in the market crowd.

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He turned before she could register his expression, and this small movement snapped something in Yumna. Why was it that every single person she relied on had lied to her, shunned her, turned away from her?

'ARE YOU EVEN A HERPETOLOGIST?!'

The market fell quiet. All eyes turned to the scene: the three Muslim families, surrounded by security guards, being ushered off stage.

Then, in the distance, the sound of a thousand buzzing insects began to rise . . .

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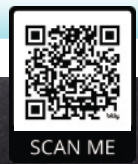
- Why is Yumna so shocked to see Norton with the security guards?
- What does Hector's description of Norton as a "loyal servant" suggest about power and control in this moment?
- How can we tell that Yumna feels betrayed by more than one person, not just Norton?
- Why do you think Mr Turner turns away instead of responding to Yumna?
- Why do you think Yumna's question "ARE YOU EVEN A HERPETOLOGIST?!" is written in capital letters? What effect does this have on the reader?
- The final line introduces the sound of "a thousand buzzing insects." What mood does this create, and why might the author end the scene this way?



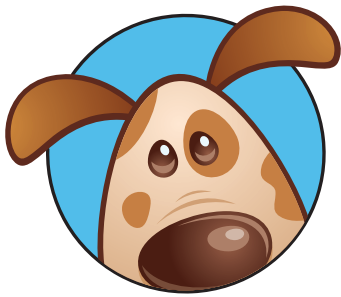
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