

The Secret Of Ruin

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Here we go again. The alarms blare and the shutters slam closed. The power for the machinery is cut and all the boxes for delivery are stored in a safe. There is no running or screaming or frantic faces, just shuffling feet and bored, irked expressions. This is not new to us. Workers whisper among themselves and place bets as to which country will be raiding this time. We get attacks like this almost daily, by countries that are not so lucky to have food, only hastily put together military forces. We only do this procedure because we have government orders, they're too paranoid and worry that our food might be stolen anytime. I think I'd be happy though, if this manufactured stuff they call food is taken away. It tastes like a bunch of rock and leather.

CRACKLE BOOM is all I hear before I get blasted into a wall. "Ow," I mutter. I rub my head and crane my neck upwards to see over the pile of rubble and bodies. All I see is injured people and machinery twisted and bent up to the point of not being fixable. I push myself up and feel a jolt of pain shoot down my back. I pick my way across the destruction to the center and find a radio, scratched and worn, sputtering out sounds. I bend over and gingerly pick it up. I hold it to my ear and hear a man's voice, deep and rough. "This is just the beginning. Brace yourselves. Long live Kreiger." Just as the message starts over, the radio dies out and I drop it to the ground. It smashes to pieces. Everyone looks up and I declare "That was a message from Kreiger telling us this will continue and we need to be ready." Everyone starts shouting over each other but each voice is drowned out by another. People start to leave and I follow suit, making my way home, wondering what will happen next.

Kreiger is our enemy, the country that has been trying to have an upper hand over us since the start of Ruin. Ruin was when the world got destroyed by pollution and human waste. All that was left was a few countries lacking resources and a couple hundred people fighting for survival. All the countries are competitors, but Kreiger rises above them all. Like us, they're richer than the other countries and had been trying to force us into their rule, but at one point they just stopped. No one heard from them and supposed they gave up after many unsuccessful attempts. Today, we heard from them after about ten years.

News of the attack traveled quickly and about two hours after the incident government agents and police are investigating. There are orders that no one will go to work tomorrow.

At home, I plop down on my couch and think about today's events. Why would Kreiger choose to bomb the food factory? Why did they bother to warn us? Has this happened in other countries? What next? Questions spring into my mind and swarm me like a group of bees constantly buzzing. I hop up and run outside. If I can catch officials at the factory, then I might be able to get some information.

The investigators are just starting to break up as I reach. I sprint over to one that looks to have authority. “Have you found out why Kreiger did this? Do you know if this has happened in other countries?”

“Sorry ma’am. We’ve been told not to give out information,” he replies and stalks off. I return home with even more questions bombarding me. *If I can’t be told what’s going on in my world, I’m going to have to find out myself.* I go to the library and check out books about the countries and Ruin and the world before Ruin. I sit down and crack them open.

The library closes and I have to go home. I take the books and skip dinner, intent on finding out something that’ll give me a clue as to what the other countries are like and more about Ruin itself. Something about this whole thing seems fishy to me. All of the books say the same thing. “Ruin was when human waste and pollution destroyed the world and left the few remaining countries to suffer.” Waste and pollution couldn’t have destroyed *everything* though. There must’ve been something left over that we could’ve used to make the world stable again. Then I come across a book called *The Secret Of Ruin*. It says that pollution was just a cover up for what actually happened. There was a tiny island in the middle of an ocean that felt like it wasn’t being given any importance. So, to prove how powerful it was, it made an extremely dangerous bomb and released it. Its effect was so lethal, that it left the world in ruins. Ever since then, people have wanted power over the little that was left of the world for their own selfish reasons. Published in 5768, one year after Ruin, I assume this is the truth and without further ado, prepare to change the mindset of these people, one step at a time, starting with my city.

It’s been months since the incident. It turned out that Kreiger had attacked to destroy us and be the superpower. Our army stopped them from striking more by ruining their weapons. This violence and bloodbath is what I’m fighting against and I’ve gathered people who agree with this cause. We believe that the world needs to unify and put Earth back together again. We’ve plastered posters all over town advertising our aim and have a meeting with a mayor in a couple of hours. We’re hoping he gets convinced and we can make our way up to talk to representatives from the country.

The mayor immediately concurred with our purpose and it took us less than 3 weeks to get to the governor and president. My group went from being a mere ten people to around 500! The whole country has one goal: To unite everyone and make the world how it used to be and attain world peace.