

Audrey Hester

"Assassin" by Au/Ra

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JEhYPOHBeU&ab_channel=heyitsauraVEVO

Fiction

(You know you're your own assassin)

Vell ran, as fast as her legs would carry her, and she ran away from a monster of her own creation. She hadn't known. She hadn't known that she could make such beings and demons, she had just been scared, and then everything had gone to hell in a handbasket.

The forest was dark, with lanky dark trees that curved over one another and blocked out the twin suns. Vell could just barely see the ground in front of her, lit up by small dots of red sunlight. Low-hanging tree branches poked at her eyes and scratched along the surface of her horns—thick black horns that spiraled upwards from her head.

She tripped on a tree root, flying forward and smashing her face into the ground.

(You don't need no help with that)

The monster was getting closer. Vell could hear tree trunks snapping as it pursued her. She scrambled to her feet, chest heaving and legs burning. A tendril of purple flesh exploded from the forest behind her, going right over her head and breaking a tree in half as it collided. Vell screamed, putting her hands over her ears. The full creature burst from the undergrowth, and Vell realized how utterly dead she was.

(It's your back that you been stabbin')

The creature was a writhing mass of purple flesh with red veins, shaped almost like some sort of massive rabid dog. Its jet black teeth were the length of Vell's hands. Its eyes were pure white. Those terrifying eyes focused on Vell, and the creature howled. Vell wasted no time in running. How had she even managed to make such a beast? Her magic had always been a bit unnatural, a bit crooked, but it had never been dangerous. She'd never made a God-forsaken demon before.

(When you gonna understand?)

A tendril wrapped around Vell's ankle, crushing her leg and sending the sound of cracking bones echoing through the forest. The agonized, animalistic scream that tore itself from Vell's throat hurt; she could feel it ripping through her vocal chords past the mind-numbing pain in her leg. Her vision was flashing black and white and every other color.

(You know you're your own assassin)

The creature lifted her up, using another tendril to curl around her arm and hold her like a puppet. It released the bone-breaking grip on her leg. Vell resisted the urge to look down, fearing she would pass out if she did so. The creature examined her, cocking its head. It threw her into the air, watching her flail before it caught her in its mouth. It bit down, teeth digging into Vell's arms and chest and skull.

(You know you're your own assassin)