

THE FEMPIROR CHRONICLES

Episode 1x03

"The Meeting"

by

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TEASER

EXT. OCEAN - DUSK

The ocean is calm. No wind blows across the water. No man or beast disturbs the surface.

INT. OCEAN - DUSK

Beneath the waves, the AMERICAN ATLANTIC FEMPIROR CITY sits on the ocean bed far removed from the habitat of man. The lights glitter, dispersed by the minute disturbances of the water.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - TRAINING ROOM

Within a bare room, DAVID TAYLOR stands beside ALEX SMITH running over sword drills with wooden training swords. David calls out counts while Alex follows him move for move in a synchronized dance of movement and deadly precision.

Alex pays careful attention to David, but frustration seems to be setting in as David completes the set. Alex sits to rest.

ALEX

So, how long until I can actually practice the fighting part of this?

DAVID

Practice is more important for you right now. You must be patient. The time for fighting will come of its own accord. No need to rush.

ALEX

Well, I think it would be a good idea to spar or something before I get stuck in a battle.

DAVID

Sparring comes later. For now, we work on the basics. They are aptly named "basic" because we can build on them.

ALEX

Yeah, but we've been working basics for a week.

DAVID

My dear boy, I have been doing this for many long years, and I think I can keep my own counsel on when you are ready to proceed.

ALEX

Let me try.

DAVID

You want to fight me?

ALEX

Yeah, if you go easy on me.

DAVID

Why should I go easy?

ALEX

Um, let's see, 200 years of experience versus one week. You're going to be better.

DAVID

That's fair.

David thinks for a moment, looking at Alex with a smirk.

DAVID

All right, then. Let's go.

ALEX

Finally.

Alex jumps up and stands opposite David. He looks David in the eye. David just looks at him, amused. Alex looks like he is waiting for something.

ALEX

Well?

DAVID

Well what?

ALEX

Are we going?

DAVID

Where?

ALEX

Not where. To fight.

DAVID

I'm waiting for you.

ALEX

Don't we bow or something?

DAVID

Why?

ALEX

Nevermind.

Alex appears to psyche himself up before lunging at David. David parries easily and stands opposite Alex again, looking very calm and amused.

Alex lunges again, swinging away. Wildly. Randomly. David easily blocks each one with sickening ease. Finally, he takes a single offensive move, whacks Alex's sword in half, and knocks him to the floor.

Alex lays there for a moment, looking at the "blade" of David's wooden sword against his neck. He pushes it away, angrily.

ALEX

Hey! You said you were going to take it easy on me.

David calmly moves to get another wooden practice sword from a rack.

DAVID

I did. You have a lot to learn.

He holds it out to Alex.

DAVID

Now. Back to the basics.

Alex gets to his feet. Throws down the piece remaining in his hand. Takes the new one from David and stands beside him, with a really frustrated sigh.

DAVID

Again.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

OUTSIDE THE WAREHOUSE WHERE THE TEPISH MET IN "Lost and Found", AGENTS 24 (TOM JENNINGS) & 45 (RALPH PETERS) sit in a Levi-Cart watching the building. They look bored.

RALPH

If we get saddled with this for one more night, I'm quitting.

TOM

It's not so bad, Ralph. Plenty of time to get out and think.

RALPH

Oh, I've been thinking. I've been thinking this stinks.

TOM

Word is that it's supposed to be within a week, and it's been that long. Could happen tonight.

RALPH

You said that last night.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

BETH CARPENTER looks at the screen that dominates the room, calmly monitoring general activity. A light flashes on her panel with a quiet alert sound. Beth punches a button and the screen centers on two white dots and one blue.

Beth presses the communication button on her panel.

BETH  
Agent 24, come in.

INT. VEHICLE - NIGHT

AGENT 24 answers the communicator.

TOM  
24, here.

BETH (O.S.)  
Tom, do you have any activity  
around you? I've got a UIF near  
you.

They look out of the windows, briefly.

TOM  
No, I don't see any-

He looks up as a TEPISH runs away from the vehicle. He is moving  
really fast.

TOM  
Wait. There's some-

EXT. VEHICLE - NIGHT

A quiet explosion wraps the bottom of the vehicle, destroying it  
and enveloping it in a thick black smoke. Suddenly, a boom  
sounds, throwing pieces of the vehicle (and undoubtedly, its  
inhabitants) all over the place.

Silence. Darkness.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. FEMPIROR CITY - NIGHT

The city sits quiet under the waves.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - KAPLIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

HENRY KAPLIN is pacing fiercely around his office. KALTESH sits calmly watching him.

KAPLIN

This is unacceptable! Unorthodox!

KALTESH

David is well-trained. He can handle the boy and teach him well.

KAPLIN

He knows the old ways, yes. He knows how to use the weapon of our predecessors, yes. But of the rules of this city, he knows nothing!

KALTESH

He will learn them. The new ways follow the old ways closely. If he abides by the old laws, he will follow the new ones by default.

KAPLIN

But what of the various agent procedures? This is the reason that putting two new ones together is against our laws.

KALTESH

Our current laws apply to newly transmuted Fempiror, not old Fempiror new to the city. The Rastem code allows the pairing of Alex and David, and that is the ruling authority here.

KAPLIN

I am the ruling authority here.  
This guy's been alone for years.  
How can we expect him to follow  
our rules?

KALTESH

He'll get the job done.

Kaplin stares intently at Kaltesh. He sits at his desk and leans over it.

KAPLIN

I'm not worried about him getting  
the job done. I'm worried about  
him doing it his way instead of  
ours!

KALTESH

Our laws are not so binding as to  
govern every situation. Agents  
make decisions every day based on  
information obtained. Besides, he  
follows the Rastem Code.

KAPLIN

How do you know that?

KALTESH

Trust. And also no evidence to the  
contrary.

KAPLIN

But we have rules, and he doesn't  
know them!

KALTESH

If that is your only problem, then  
I don't see a reason to assign  
Alex to anyone else.

KAPLIN

I should make the agent assignments!



KALTESH

It's a balance of power, Henry.  
We share the load. I pair them;  
you send them to their doom. I  
know the Rastem Code as well as  
our laws, and I followed both in  
this.

Kaplin's desk communicator comes to life.

BETH (V.O.)

Mayor Kaplin.

Kaplin scowls at the interruption and presses the button.

KAPLIN

(to speaker)

What is it, Beth?

BETH (V.O.)

Agents 24 and 45, sir.

KALTESH

Aren't they the ones watching the  
Tepish warehouse?

KAPLIN

They are.

He presses the button.

KAPLIN

(to speaker)

What's going on?

BETH (V.O.)

I tracked a UIF next to them, but  
when I tried to contact them, the  
line went dead.

Kaplin looks like he is thinking for a moment.

KAPLIN

Could the UIF have killed them?

KALTESH

Not so suddenly, I would think.  
At least not without creating  
a more colorful display on the  
WFTS.

Kaplin thinks a moment longer. He presses the button.

KAPLIN

(to speaker)

Send 46 and 68 on a fly-by to  
check on their status.

(to Kaltesh)

That should do it.

Kaltesh nods.

BETH (V.O.)

Understood, sir.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - COMMON AREAS - NIGHT

Fempiror of the city mill around. Beth's voice echoes over the  
speaker system.

BETH (V.O.)

Agents 46 and 68, please report  
to launch bay.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - STREET

Alex walks down the street, which is more of a footpath, to a  
square-ish unit. He opens the door and enters.

BETH (V.O.)

Agents 46 and 68, report to  
launch bay.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - ALEX'S HOUSE

A modest dwelling consisting of a moderately sized main living room, a kitchen area, dining area, a bathroom off to one side and two doors, leading into two bedroom. It is conservatively furnished with the necessities.

CARLA SMITH, Alex's 16 year old human sister, sits on the couch, zoning herself out on the television.

Alex enters and flops himself down on the couch, exhausted. Carla doesn't even look at him.

CARLA

Whatever cable they've got on this TV, it doesn't have enough channels. How am I supposed to find anything to watch on only 60 channels?

She finally looks at him.

CARLA

Long day?

ALEX

He wears me out.

CARLA

I'm sorry.

ALEX

No biggie. He's old and set in his ways.

Alex smiles at his sister. She shakes her head.

CARLA

Are you learning anything?

ALEX

Yeah, that I've got a lot to learn. Were you at school today?

CARLA

Yup. Going to school is really weird now. We take one of those Levi-Carts to the coast and drive the rest of the way. I'm just glad it's not too far.

ALEX

Yeah.

Carla watches the tube again. Alex does the same for moment.

ALEX

So how are you doing here?

CARLA

Ok, I guess. It's weird, not being at home, you know. I get sad sometimes, too, because they're gone.

ALEX

Yeah. At least you get to see Micah still.

CARLA

Yeah, but it's getting weird between us.

ALEX

How?

CARLA

Well, it's like we've moved now, and the relationship has gone long distance.

ALEX

But you see him at school.

CARLA

Yeah, but I checked on going out with him on Saturday night, and it is like an act of God to get out of this place.

ALEX

There's supposed to be a way to the beach. And you are able to get back in that way too.

CARLA

No one will show me how to use it. And until I know where it comes out, I can't tell Micah where to find me, and if he can't find me, he can't pick me up, and if he can't pick me up, we can't go out.

She gruffs at the whole situation. Alex puts a hand on her shoulder, comfortingly.

ALEX

Look, I may have lost my high school sweetheart, but you shouldn't have to. Come on, let's find someone to help us.

Carla nods.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A black vehicle pulls into the parking lot of the warehouse. The Agent vehicle is now a charred heap in the lot. The garage door of the warehouse opens. The car pulls in.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Inside the warehouse, Tepish security is everywhere. It appears very excessive. The car is guided to one end of the warehouse where it stops, and the engine is turned off.

A TEPISH ESCORT opens the door for the dignitary. HECTOR ARGUELLAS steps out the vehicle and is led up the stairs to a meeting room by the escort.

INT. WAREHOUSE OFFICE - NIGHT

ERECH watches Hector from his office window. With him in the office is another Tepish under his command: his CORTZ SUFRU, KEVIN KRILL.

ERECH

The first one has arrived.

KEVIN

Who is it?

ERECH

Hector Arguellas. He's trouble.

KEVIN

Why would he oppose the  
unification?

ERECH

Same reason any of them would.  
Selfishness. They want their  
"autonomy" and such nonsense.  
They don't realize this autonomy  
has caused more Tepish deaths than  
the hierarchy.

KEVIN

They are proud of it.

Erech turns to Kevin.

ERECH

Kevin, I appreciate your devil's  
advocating for me. It helps me  
think because they will speak the  
same way. Have I told you the rank  
you will hold in the new order?

Kevin looks confused.

KEVIN

No, sir. I am no leader, and would  
not ask to be. I stand at your side  
and will not leave it.

ERECH

Yes, I know this. Do you not know  
of the Cortz Sufru?

KEVIN

No, sir, I don't. You have told me of many ranks, but never this one. Are they under the Hashakröd?

ERECH

No, no. They are outside the structure entirely, and hold special positions at the side of each Malnak. You will never find a Malnak without his Cortz Sufru. They are the bodyguards, and the head of any other protection the Malnak may deem necessary. You, Kevin, are my Cortz Sufru. It is a position you will hold until death.

KEVIN

I thank you, sir.

ERECH

When I become Elrod Malnak, you will not longer call me sir, but Lord, for I will be the Lord of all the Tepish.

KEVIN

Yes, my lord, but will the others accept you as their lord - as their Elrod Malnak?

ERECH

It doesn't matter what they think or want. It will happen how I say it will whether they like it or not.

KEVIN

What if they will not be controlled?

ERECH

If they will not succumb to my rule, then I will appoint someone who will.

KEVIN

But these are the leaders of the  
Tepish in this part of the world.  
If they do not accept you, how  
would you force their followers to?

ERECH

When force is required, it is force  
I will provide. It's a simple rule,  
Kevin. They will either join us, or  
they will die.

Erech pulls a CLIP out of his desk drawer and snaps it into  
place in a pistol. Kevin smiles.

KEVIN

Excellent, my lord Erech.

END OF ACT ONE



ACT TWO

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The pipe emerges above the surface of the water. A LEVI-CART flies out and hits the air.

INT. VEHICLE

CHILDRESS MACCULLUM and VERA SARAJE fly over the ocean toward the warehouse. Childress hits the communicator button.

CHILDRESS

What's going on, Beth?

BETH (V.O.)

We lost communication with the Agents watching the warehouse. Need a fly-by to check on them.

CHILDRESS

We're on our way.

VERA

This shouldn't be too hard.

CHILDRESS

Don't count on it.

EXT. OCEAN/LANDFALL - NIGHT

The Levi-Cart flies from the ocean to over land at a high speed.

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Around the table (from left to right) sits Hector Arguellas, JIMMY HARDRAW, GIN FRINGRA, LORNDIS EROFKA, PINTIR JORIN, WALTER REEFER, MARCUS PORTERGRAF, and QUINCY LORNESON.

Before each of them sits a little name plate declaring who they are. They all look suspiciously around the table like a meeting of the mob bosses.

Erech enters the room and stands at the head of the table. He smiles as he looks at his guests.

ERECH

Welcome back my friends. As you know, we are here to discuss the rejoining of our order of Tepish. You eight sitting here are the head minds within this nation who claim allegiance to the philosophy of the Tepish order.

HECTOR

Enough with the pleasantries. I have a schedule this evening and I won't have you holding me up with pointless banter.

ERECH

Patience, dear Hector, patience. Let me introduce everyone to your esteemed colleagues around the table. You may not know each other well at this time, but soon we will all be working together to achieve something greater than we could alone. To start at my left, this is Quincy Lorneson.

Quincy nods. When Erech continues, Quincy looks concerned.

ERECH

Moving on, we have Marcus Portergraf.

Marcus watches Erech expressionlessly. Erech continues around the table.

ERECH

Walter Reefer. Pintir Jorin, Larin-

Quincy stands, interrupting.

QUINCY

Now wait just a minute. We all have areas we control. You are not giving us our full due.

ERECH

What control? No one has boundaries. No one even knows where their area ends and another begins. It may surprise Larinkas Erofka, for example, to know that Walter Reefer's so called area of control overlaps his by more than 90%.

Larinkas turns to Walter and sneers. Walter does the same.

ERECH

Such revelations are common among all of you, and if we have to deal with arguments all night, dear Hector will never fulfill his busy schedule.

HECTOR

Get on with it!

ERECH

Of course. From Lorndis, there's Gin Fringra, Jimmy Harddraw, and of course, Hector Arguellas has already introduced himself. On behalf of the future of the Tepish and the end of humanity, I bid you all welcome!

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - STREET - NIGHT

Alex and Carla walk through the streets apparently looking for anyone. They speak to someone who points to someone else and walks onward.

They go in the direction indicated.

CARLA

See? Everyone's just too busy to help right now.

ALEX

We'll find someone.

They find themselves near a wall of the city. Outside, the sea life goes on. Fish of several varieties swim around the city. They stand for a moment in awe.

CARLA

It is beautiful.

ALEX

Have you seen it in the daytime?  
I mean, wow.

CARLA

Yeah. Anyway, come on, let's find someone to get us out of here.

ALEX

I can't leave. I'd have to tell David first.

CARLA

I don't mean leave now. I just mean find out how to. We might walk the beach for a minute or something.

She runs off. Alex follows. She comes across ALBERT HARRIS (or AL), the day dispatcher, who turns out to be a younger Fempiror, only appearing to be 23 with medium length hair and blue eyes. He is dressed very casually.

CARLA

Excuse me, we're trying to find the way out. Can you show us where it is?

AL

I really need to take care of some things.

ALEX

How long does it take to leave?

AL

Oh, not long really...

ALEX

Like how long is not long?

Al stops and sighs.

AL

All right. Follow me.

Al leads them through the city.

ALEX

I'm Alex Smith, by the way. This is my sister, Carla.

CARLA

Hello.

AL

I'm Al, day dispatcher.

CARLA

Al and Alex. This'll get confusing.

AL

Ah yes, I remember you two. From last week. Sorry to hear about your loss.

ALEX

Thank you.

Al reaches a wall with a round portal looking door. He points to a panel.

AL

This button opens the door.

The door swishes open. Al enters, followed by Alex and Carla. Al speaks very quickly.

AL

Button 1, here, closes the door and takes you up. Button 2 will get you to the beach. You press the button on the outside to send the pod back down here. Got it?

Al walks out.

ALEX

Just one thing.

Al looks at him.

ALEX

How do we get back?

AL

Get back? Oh, I forgot. Here.

Al takes a communicator from a socket on the wall next to the pod. He shows it to Alex, pointing out the various features.

AL

This button-

Al points to a red button on top of communicator.

AL

-will activate the return sequence without requiring an escort. You'll still get attention, but as long as you're registered, you won't have any problems.

He hands it over to Alex.

ALEX

Thank you.

Alex puts the communicator in a pocket.

AL

Just make sure no humans see you. Sorry to be so short, but I am in a bit of a hurry. Any questions?

Carla and Alex shake their heads.

AL

You can talk to the dispatcher through the communicator if you need anything. I've got to go. Nice to've met you.

CARLA

You too!

Al trots away. Carla looks at Alex, excited.

CARLA

Are you ready?

ALEX

Let's go!

They re-enter the pod. Carla presses button 1, and the door swishes closed.

EXT. FEMPIROR CITY - NIGHT

The pod detaches from the side of the city and moves slowly up to the surface.

INT. POD - NIGHT

Carla and Alex both watch the dark ocean out the pod windows.

ALEX

Wow.

CARLA

Yeah. This'd be a great place to make out in.

Alex rolls his eyes.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The pod continues its slow ascent to the surface, finally bobbing to the top of the water, but with most of its volume still underwater. It appears to just be peeking out.

INT. POD - NIGHT

Carla and Alex look out the pod windows. The beach sits silent and still in the night.

CARLA

All clear.

Carla presses button 2.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The pod moves to the beach, and settles itself fully in the sand, completely out of the water. The door opens. They step out.

CARLA

That was cool!

ALEX

I know.

Carla presses the outside button. The pod closes, settles itself back into the water, and disappears below the surface. Alex looks at Carla and smiles. Carla smiles back and sits down on the beach.

CARLA

Peaceful.

Alex sits next to her.

ALEX

Yeah.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - KAPLIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Kaplin and Kaltesh are still in his office. David enters.



DAVID

You called for me, Mayor Kaplin?

KAPLIN

Yes, David, have a seat.

David sits next to Kaltesh, who nods to him. David smiles back. He turns to Kaplin.

KAPLIN

David, I called you in here because we have a situation, and I want as much experience as I can get in on it.

DAVID

Thank you for considering me.

KAPLIN

This is still hypothetical at this point, but I've been talking to Kaltesh about it, and I thought I'd get your opinion too.

DAVID

All right.

KAPLIN

Since I've been mayor, we have not run across more than two or three Tepish in a single group and usually, they work alone. There is no order to their order anymore.

DAVID

Ok.

KAPLIN

But last week, seven marched together against your trainee's parents. Then at that warehouse, we hit a slew of them, and then you found that underground monorail. That's a whole lot of Tepish in a short time.

DAVID

It's more than I've found as well.

KAPLIN

Couple this with the rumor you overheard of a meeting, and I'm taking it dead serious.

DAVID

Understood. So what's the situation at this time?

KAPLIN

I've only read about this, but do you think the Tepish are trying to bring order to their order again?

DAVID

Definitely possible. They would be far more dangerous as a group than singly.

KALTESH

If the Tepish are holding a meeting at that warehouse to discuss this very topic of restoring the hierarchy, what kind of force would you think we should send?

David thinks about this for a moment.

DAVID

My opinion?

KAPLIN

That's what I want.

DAVID

I think the discovery of that monorail can be used to our advantage.

KAPLIN

I don't see how.

DAVID

If they are holding this meeting,  
and security is as high as Erech  
implied, we should divide our  
forces.

Kaplin narrows his eyes.

DAVID

Take some of our people topside  
to the warehouse to drive Erech  
and his Overlords into the  
monorail. Once there, we can  
have a second force ready at the  
station to handle them. We take  
down the Malnak, and the new  
order falls.

Kaplin looks at Kaltesh. Kaltesh doesn't respond. David looks  
between the two of them.

DAVID

Well?

KAPLIN

If we make a sufficient assault  
at the warehouse, we will have  
forces wasted in this monorail.  
We may need the numbers.

DAVID

What if he escapes? You'll  
need someone to stop him.

KALTESH

Our goal is to not allow him  
to escape. Your plan does have  
merit.

KAPLIN

Merit, yes, but I believe our  
numbers will best be served in  
one location ... to prevent  
his escape.

DAVID

I disagree.

KAPLIN

Then your opinion will be noted,  
however, I am in charge here,  
and I have decided.

David grimaces and then nods his head.

DAVID

When do we move?

KAPLIN

I sent Childress and Vera on a  
fly-by of the warehouse to  
ascertain the fate of two of our  
agents there.

DAVID

Ok.

EXT. CITY SKY - NIGHT

Childress and Vera fly in their Levi-Cart over the warehouse.

INT. VEHICLE - NIGHT

Childress looks out the window as he circles. There is a small  
crater on the ground below where the vehicle of their comrades  
used to sit. He turns to Vera.

CHILDRESS

Well, they were taken out.

VERA

Now what?

CHILDRESS

Let's look in the door.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Childress lands the Levi-Cart around the corner from the warehouse. He parks it off the property. He and Vera creep across the parking lot to the side door of the warehouse. They look inside.

Inside, they see a multitude of cars with more guards than anyone has seen before. They sidle back against the outside wall as a guard walks by. Childress turns to Vera.

CHILDRESS

(whispered)

We have to send a message back  
to the city. The meeting has  
begun!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Alex and Carla both lie out on the beach watching the stars, listening to the waves. It is very relaxing. Suddenly, Alex's communicator goes off.

BETH (V.O.)

Attention, all agents. Report to launch bay immediately. You heard me right. Everyone. Report to the launch bay.

ALEX

I think I gotta go.

CARLA

You're not an agent.

ALEX

No, but no one knows I'm here right now.

Carla sighs big.

CARLA

All right.

Alex presses the recall button on the communicator.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - LAUNCH BAY - NIGHT

David stands in the bay waiting for Alex. All the other agents have entered their vehicles. David stands next to his. GAMLING, the lead mechanic, hollers to David.

GAMLING

Where's your boy?

DAVID

I don't know.

David pulls out a communicator.

DAVID  
(to communicator)  
Hey, Beth.

BETH (V.O.)  
Yes?

DAVID  
(to communicator)  
Can you find Alex for me? Please.

BETH (V.O.)  
Sure, David. One moment.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Beth punches a few buttons on her panel. On the screen, she sees Alex's signal slowly drifting to the side of the city and then stop. A red dot is with him. Beth smiles.

BETH  
(to communicator)  
It looks like he and his sister  
found their way out of the city.  
I'll let him know you're looking  
for him.

DAVID (V.O.)  
Thank you.

Beth smiles.

BETH  
(to herself)  
You're welcome.

Beth presses a couple of buttons and then the communicator button again.

BETH  
(to communicator)  
Alex.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - POD - NIGHT

The doors swish open. Alex looks at the communicator. Carla smiles.

CARLA  
You're in trouble.

ALEX  
Sh!

He takes it in his hand and presses the talk button.

ALEX  
(to communicator)  
Yeah?

BETH (V.O.)  
Meet David at the launch bay,  
please.

ALEX  
(to communicator)  
Okay.

Alex looks at Carla.

ALEX  
I guess I'll see you later.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - LAUNCH BAY - NIGHT

David stands next to the Levi-Cart in an empty bay. Alex walks in.

DAVID  
It's about time.

ALEX  
Sorry. I was on the beach.

DAVID  
Let's go.



Alex gets in. David moves the Levi-Cart to the tube and lets it fly.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The Levi-Cart emerges from the tube and flies across the ocean.

ALEX

What's going on?

DAVID

We're supposed to join the others at a warehouse where the Tepish are having a meeting.

ALEX

(excited)

Am I going to fight?

DAVID

No.

Alex's expression drops.

ALEX

Then why am I going?

DAVID

To observe. This is no game we play.

ALEX

This is stupid!

DAVID

You have the skills to be great, but you lack practice and experience. In time, you will join the agents, but for now, just watch me.

Alex crosses his arms and pouts.

ALEX

Ok.

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

The Levi-Cart flies along. Not too far ahead of them, a large number of Levi-Carts make their way to the warehouse.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Erech stands before the assembly. Some of the Tepish shake their heads.

ERECH

...to bring the Tepish back together as a unified whole. To train, grow, and fight as one. To increase the transmutation of humanity ten-, fifty-, a hundred-fold. To do as our founders intended: induce the slow genocide of our mother race. They rejected us. We reject them.

PINTIR

These are grand words, Erech, but how would you accomplish them? Do you have a plan?

ERECH

Of course I do, Pintir. We revive the old hierarchy of the Tepish. It worked for many years.

Many scoffs and mutterings come at this.

QUINCY

The hierarchy? It is dead!

ERECH

Of course it is, Quincy. That's why it doesn't work. With its revival, we could become an order of strength, not the laughingstock of the Rastem agents.

MARCUS

How would this be of any benefit?

ERECH

You see, Marcus, we can divide the United States into three sections, each controlled by a Triver Shradna. The sections would be subdivided into three smaller sections, each overseen by a Hashakröd, who reports to the Triver Shradna. The Malnak: Morgad, Kurvatz, and Elrod, who is lord over all.

HECTOR

And who, need I ask, would be the Elrod Malnak.

Erech smiles and beams over them all.

ERECH

This is my brainchild. I planned it, and will execute it. I am the Elrod Malnak!

EXT. CITY SKY - NIGHT

David's Levi-Cart flies over the city. He takes a sharp turn away from following the Levi-Carts ahead of him.

INT. VEHICLE - NIGHT

Alex looks at the other vehicles as they turn away from them.

ALEX

Hey, what's going on? Aren't we going where they're going?

DAVID

Not exactly. They're going to the warehouse. I have another plan.

ALEX

Oh. So where're we going?

DAVID

You remember that house we went to last week?

ALEX

Yeah.

DAVID

There's a monorail connection near there underground. We're going there, taking the monorail to a station, and meeting them when they try to escape.

ALEX

Oh. Ok.

EXT. CITY SKY - NIGHT

The Levi-Cart blasts over the city, as the others continue on their way in a different direction.

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

The Tepish Overlords look shocked at Erech's declaration for a moment. Some shake their heads. Finally, Hector laughs.

HECTOR

You impetuous little twirp. What makes you think that if we do agree to this plan of yours that we would appoint you Elrod Malnak?

ERECH

Appoint? Who among you thinks I am incapable of this position?

HECTOR

I do! And if no one else has the guts to say it, I say it for all of us. We love our autonomy. We've said it before. We will not agree to this insanity of yours.

ERECH

(calm, sinister)

Hector, I didn't ask if you agreed. I am telling you the way it is.

HECTOR

The way it is! Who do you think  
you are?

ERECH

I am the Elrod Malnak. And you are  
a traitor.

Erech raises his pistol.

HECTOR

You don't have the-

He does. Erech shoots Hector in the head. Hector is halted mid-sentence and falls to the floor. Erech looks around the room. Without warning, his security force enters the room and surrounds the other overlords. Erech smiles, evilly.

ERECH

Does anyone else ... disagree?

The others stand silently.

LORNDIS

What is your plan ... Lord Erech,  
Elrod Malnak?

Erech smiles.

ERECH

Excellent, Lorndis. Very wise, all  
of you. I will appoint the Morgad  
and Kurvatz Malnak as well as the  
Triver Shradna Ün, Tiyo, and Tra.  
The Triver Shradna will appoint  
their own Hashakröd, as the Tepish  
Hierarchy allows.

GIN

There are seven of us, and only five  
ranks of power.

ERECH

The two who are not appointed to  
these positions, I will place as  
Hashakröd to one of the others.

Erech looks darkly at Gin.

ERECH  
Is this a problem, Gin?

GIN  
No, Elrod Malnak. You are wise.

Erech smiles again.

ERECH  
Excellent.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The Levi-Carts all land and drive up to the side of the warehouse. The agents get out of their vehicles.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A guard looks out the window and sees the force. He runs across the warehouse and up the stairs to the meeting room.

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Erech stands before the table with the Overlords standing opposite him. The guard bursts in and bows to Erech.

GUARD  
Elrod Malnak.

ERECH  
What is it?

GUARD  
My lord, we are under attack.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. TEPISH SHELTER - NIGHT

David lands the Levi-Cart near the house where the Tepish Shelter was in "Lost and Found". He and Alex exit the vehicle and walk to the door. David knocks.

Inside the house, the lights come on and a TEPISH, who looks kind of like a wife beater, answers the door.

TEPISH

Do you have any idea what time it is?

David smiles and places his hand on the Tepish's shoulder.

DAVID

My friend, I do.

He leans in close, like he is going to tell the Tepish a secret.

DAVID

I just want to use the monorail.

TEPISH

I don't think so.

DAVID

Oh, I do.

The Tepish pulls a gun from behind his back, but David is quicker. He draws his sword and hacks off the Tepish's head before he could even aim.

INT. TEPISH SHELTER - NIGHT

David enters the house, and another Tepish rushes in with a gun drawn. He fires at David who blocks his bullets. He throws away the gun and draws a sword.

He clashes with David briefly. Alex watches from the doorway. Another Tepish comes out with his sword. David defends himself easily from both foes. As quick as they'd come, David takes them out.

Alex walks in. Looks at the carnage. Shakes his head.

ALEX

Yeah, I couldn't've done that.

DAVID

Perhaps you'll listen to me.  
Come on.

David leads Alex to the garage where they drop into the underground tunnel.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The agents kick in the door and the firefight begins. The agents hide behind their vehicles, which take several bullet hits.

The Tepish hide inside the warehouse, which is not as sturdy. Several holes are popped in the sheet metal housing, hitting some of the Tepish inside.

The Tepish open the large garage entry door so more can take shots at the agents.

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone in the meeting hears the battle outside.

JIMMY

What's going on? Have you brought us here to kill us?

ERECH

Nonsense. We will leave through my monorail system underground.

GIN

Monorail?

ERECH

Surely you don't believe I would not have an escape plan in case the Rastem were to find us.



GIN

Of course. My apologies again,  
Elrod Malnak.

ERECH

Your positions I will ponder. Now,  
we must go.

Erech turns to a nearby guard.

ERECH

Be sure and hold off the Rastem  
while we escape.

GUARD

Yes, my lord.

INT. MONORAIL CAVERN - NIGHT

David and Alex emerge next to the monorail controls David used  
in 1x01.

DAVID

Here we are!

ALEX

Where?

DAVID

Wait.

He presses the recall button and shoos Alex back into the  
tunnel.

The monorail cart comes around the bend with the same DRIVER  
David accosted in 1x01. He stops at the connection and looks  
around.

David springs from the tunnel and leaps into the cart. The  
Driver looks at his passenger and groans.

DAVID

Well, hello again.

DRIVER  
(sighing)  
Where to?

DAVID  
I'm afraid I'm driving this time.

David decks the Driver, laying him out completely.

DAVID  
Come on, Alex.

Alex exits the tunnel. He hops in the cart as David settles into the control seat.

ALEX  
Where are we going?

DAVID  
Hold on.

David presses a button and the section of monorail track beneath the cart raises up and turns around. He hits the accelerator and he and Alex shoot off down the track.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The agents continue hiding behind their vehicles taking shot after shot at the Tepish inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Erech stands ready to leave with Kevin behind him and the other seven former Tepish Overlords along with a large contingent of security. Erech signals to a guard close by.

ERECH  
You are to ensure the Rastem are held off until we have reached the monorail. Once we are safely away, retreat. This battle is not worth fighting this day. We have other methods of destroying them.

GUARD  
Yes, my lord.

The guard exits the room. Erech signals to the others.

ERECH

We're going.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Erech and the seven Tepish Overlords exit the meeting room and walk down the stairs flanked by the security.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Childress, taking cover behind a vehicle, spots Erech and the other within the building. He calls to anyone who can hear him.

CHILDRESS

(calling out)

There's Erech! See if you can  
take him out!

Some of the agents change their aim to try and hit the new Elrod Malnak.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A shot pings off the wall behind Erech. Kevin turns to him.

KEVIN

Run, my lord!

(to the others)

Everyone, run for the monorail!

They run for the door to the monorail as other shots barely miss them and take out one or two security guards.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Childress sees them run out of range and scowls.

INT. MONORAIL STATION - NIGHT

David pulls up to the station and stops the cart. Several Tepish there see him, and look curious. When David jumps out, realization sets in. They draw their guns and begin firing.

David deftly blocks the bullets as Alex lays low in the cart, some shots bouncing off the cart walls. When their guns run low on ammo, David takes them out. He turns to Alex.

DAVID

Come on. We have to hide in case Erech come this way.

ALEX

(angrily)

Erech is the one who killed my parents.

DAVID

Don't focus on that. You have too much to learn.

Alex only accepts this without a nod.

DAVID

Now, come on.

Alex gets out of the cart, and they hide just another cart come down the track.

This cart contains Erech, Kevin, the seven former Overlords, and two Tepish security guards with swords instead of guns. As the cart comes to a stop, Kevin looks around suspiciously.

KEVIN

Where is the security?

David steps out of the shadows.

DAVID

I took care of them.

Erech narrows his eyes upon seeing David.

ERECH

I know you.

David walks toward the cart. Kevin turns to the passengers.

KEVIN

Get out! Now!

The passengers get out of the cart. A car roars down a passageway and stops next to the station. The passengers run towards it.

DAVID

Yes, you know me. And I know you.  
You engage in willing transmutation  
in violation of the Rastem Code,  
and by the words of that code will  
you die.

Erech laughs.

ERECH

Ah, a true Rastem. Not these sad  
children you take in these days.

KEVIN

My lord, to the car!

ERECH

Perhaps, we will meet on another  
day, Rastem.

David starts running towards him.

KEVIN

(to the guards)

Kill him.

Kevin accompanies Erech to the car. The guards in the cart leap out, draw their swords and attack David. As they swing and slash, he blocks with his gauntlets as much as with his sword and ducks several swings.

Erech and Kevin reach the car, and they drive off.

David kills one guard. The second continues fighting for a while before David flips away from him. They stand facing each other for a moment.

DAVID

You are abandoned and alone. Is  
this what you signed up for?

The Tepish says nothing.

DAVID

You won't win.

The Tepish raises his sword and rushes David. David blocks the rush and with a couple more strokes from the Tepish, David takes him down. He looks after the car and grimaces, knowing he lost his prey.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - KAPLIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Kaplin paces. His face is red and angry. David stands in the office next to Kaltesh and Alex.

KAPLIN

(angrily)

You were told to go to the warehouse with the other agents! Your plan was not approved. I do not tolerate insubordination!

DAVID

I understand that, sir, but I told you that Erech would take his people out on the monorail if we attacked him. My purpose was better served there.

KAPLIN

That is not for you to decide! If you cannot obey our rules, we don't need you here.

DAVID

Okay.

KAPLIN

What?

DAVID

If you don't want me here, I'll leave. There is nothing keeping me here. I lived for many years on my own, and as I understand your laws, as long as I am registered, I can do as I wish. It seems to me that I would be more useful to you here, but I have nothing to lose if you, shall we say, fire me.

Kaplin fumes visibly.

DAVID

And, if I am not mistaken, I can still live in the city, and still leave at night to do what I do. I'd rather work with you, but if you force me to work on my own, I can.

Kaplin is really not happy with this observation.

KAPLIN

Then your position is retained. It seems I have more to lose than you do. However, this city has operated for many years under a set of rules, and following them is expected. At least, for the sake of order, set an example for others to follow.

David nods.

DAVID

I will do my best. But I would also ask that you trust my judgment. Had you sent enough of a force with me, we may well have captured Erech. Alone, I had to contend with a meager security force, and he got away. If he brings back the hierarchy in any way, there is going to be more trouble than just my bad example.

Kaplin sighs deeply.

KAPLIN  
Of course. Go on.

DAVID  
Thank you, mayor Kaplin. Come on,  
Alex.

Alex sheepishly follows David out. He closes the door behind him. Kaltesh looks at Kalpin.

KALTESH  
You know, he's right.

KAPLIN  
I know he is, Kaltesh. I know he  
is.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - DAY

David and Alex walk together down the city main road. Overhead, at a height of about 8 feet, rides a transport system to rapidly get the residents of the city from point A to point B.

ALEX  
So, that's getting in trouble?

DAVID  
You might say that. I would ask  
that you emulate my style of  
fighting, but I will admit that my  
impetuous style has gotten me and  
others into more trouble than its  
worth.

ALEX  
But didn't we do the right thing?

DAVID  
I believe so. I don't know the mayor  
well enough to guess why he was so  
upset about it.

Beth walks up behind him.



BETH

He's upset because he didn't think of it first.

DAVID

Oh, hi Beth.

BETH

I haven't seen him that red in the face in a long time. Well done.

DAVID

Thanks?

BETH

I mean it. I hope you stick around for awhile. We really need someone like you to show the newer ones how it's done.

DAVID

I'll do the best I can.

BETH

Moreover, if the rumors are true, and this Tepish order reforms, then we will need all the help we can get. I don't know what it will be like and neither do most of us. Only you and Kaltesh are old enough to have experienced the true Order of Tepish. That scares Kaplin too.

DAVID

I can understand that.

BETH

Good. Take it easy. I'll see you later.

DAVID

Yeah, I'll see you.

She smiles and walks away. David watches her go. Alex looks at David. He sees David watching Beth go. David sighs.

ALEX

Hey! What're we doing?

David looks to Alex and smiles.

DAVID

Practice!

ALEX

Aw!

David and Alex walk through the streets again, apparently continuing to chat.

THE END