

THE FEMPIROR CHRONICLES

Episode 1x07

"The Code Victim"

by

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TEASER

EXT. FEMPIROR CITY - DAY

Under the ocean on the seabed rests the massive American Atlantic Fempiror City. Bathed in filtered light from above, it is a beautiful sight in its protective bubble.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - PARK

DAVID TAYLOR sits on a park bench under a tree on a large grassy area. Instead of his Rastem garb, he is dressed in modern casual clothing. He stares out of the bubble at fish swimming by in the water. He appears very distant.

BETH CARPENTER walks up next to him.

BETH

Hey, how are you doing?

David looks at her and smiles.

DAVID

I'm fine. Like it never happened.

Beth sits next to him.

BETH

A meeting is being called today. He's going to be set before the entire city where we all decide his fate.

DAVID

Everyone?

BETH

That's the way it works.

David nods. He stares at the ground.

BETH

What's wrong?

DAVID

Do you have any idea how many unanswered questions surround this guy?

BETH

That's why he's coming before us.

DAVID

The big one for me is, "Why is he alive?" Erech let him live. It wasn't an accident anymore than my surviving was an accident. Erech knew we'd take him in. And yet, Kevin Krill is alive.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - INNER CELLBLOCK

KEVIN KRILL, former Cortz Sufru to Erech, opens his eyes. He sits up on a bunk in a small cell. He looks around and sighs.

A guard walks away from the cell in the adjoining hallway. He picks up a handset.

GUARD

Mayor Kaplin, our guest is awake.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - PARK - DAY

David and Beth walk through the park area. This area is filled out to look like a full city park complete with trees, grass, tables, and a line of benches looking out through the side of the bubble.

BETH

How could you have not known about the World Fempiror Tracking System and avoid us?

DAVID

I just lived day to day and if I was followed, I just avoided my pursuers. Your system came about after I lost touch with the Fempiror world. I had no idea.

BETH

But we finally got you, didn't we?

DAVID

I chose to come. Childress will tell you he couldn't make me.

BETH

So where have you been all these years anyway? Kaltesh said they lost you in 1819.

DAVID

There are a few long stories in there.

BETH

I'm all ears.

DAVID

Maybe we could get together sometime, and I could regale you with my tales.

BETH

I'm here now.

DAVID

Yeah, but I could into a good tale,  
and before you know it-

AL

David Taylor, please report to  
Mayor Kaplin's office.

DAVID

-that happens. Come on. Outside  
the city sometime.

BETH

You know I work nights.

DAVID

Every night?

Beth smiles. She looks away momentarily.

BETH

No, not every night.

DAVID

Can I have one of your "not every  
nights"?

BETH

You'd better go. Kaplin is waiting.

DAVID

You're not getting off the hook  
that easily.

BETH

I'll give you a firm maybe.

DAVID

I'll take it.

David runs off. Beth watches him go. She sighs.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - SMITH HOUSE - DAY

ALEX SMITH sits on the couch with his hands folded, staring at the floor. CARLA SMITH, his younger sister, enters. She heads for the television, but stops upon seeing him.

CARLA

Are you awake?

Alex nods.

CARLA

What is it?

ALEX

Do you think he knew them?

CARLA

Who knew who?

ALEX

This Tepish guy they caught. Do you think he knew...you know...mom and dad before they left?

CARLA

I dunno. Maybe. Why would you want to know?

ALEX

You know they were around for over a hundred years before we were born? A hundred years! I guess... I don't know...

Alex gets up and walks to his bedroom door.

CARLA

You know, they left the order fifteen years ago. Maybe this Kevin guy wasn't a part of it then.

ALEX

Come on, he was Erech's Cor-  
something. I know I wouldn't take  
someone as my bodyguard if he  
hadn't been around awhile. He  
has to have known them.

CARLA

What do you want him to tell you?

Alex leans against the frame for a moment. He turns to her.

ALEX

I don't know. These Tepish are so  
cruel and unrelenting in so many  
ways, I just can't picture them  
being like that.

CARLA

Do you really want to know then?

ALEX

Well...

Carla stares at him, a tear forming in an eye. Alex shrugs.

ALEX

Part of me is like, I want to  
know if they were that way, but  
another part doesn't want to know  
if they were. I don't know...

He folds his arms and stares at the floor again. Carla sighs.

CARLA

You're going to ask, aren't you?

Alex nods.

ALEX

If I can.

He looks up at her.

ALEX

There are so many unanswered questions about them. More than we could ever have imagined. I just want to know something about them before they found us. What was it about us that made them want to risk everything?

CARLA

You know, he probably can't tell you that.

ALEX

I know. But I still wonder.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

ALBERT (AL) HARRIS sits at his panel. A little siren goes off and a blue light pulsates. He looks over to it and presses a button silencing it.

He looks up at the wall monitor. It focuses on a blue dot. Al presses a button.

AL

Mayor Kaplin.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - KAPLIN'S OFFICE

HENRY KAPLIN sits at his expansive desk. He reaches over and presses a button.

KAPLIN

Kaplin here.

AL

Got a blue alert, sir. Probably a Mutation.

Kaplin checks a ledger on his desk.

KAPLIN

Send forty-six and sixty-eight to check it out.



AL

Yes, sir.

Kaplin looks up. Across from him sit David and KALTESH. Kaplin folds his hands and leans on the desk.

KAPLIN

As you both know, there is a Kevin Krill in our city that only a few weeks ago was Cortz Sufuru to Erech, the new Elrod Malnak of the Tepish Order. There's really no denying the hierarchy is back.

DAVID

I would agree with that, but what are we going to do with him?

KALTESH

This is what you've been missing out on all these years. You've never captured a Tepish before, have you?

DAVID

Well, maybe captured, but never in the presence of other Fempiror.

KAPLIN

Remember that Rastem Code you threw in my face?

David nods.

DAVID

Sorry about that.

KAPLIN

We use that code as a basis of trial. It is still the backbone of our law here, and despite your earlier opinions of me, I do honor it.

DAVID

And I come into this how?

KALTESH

The current law requires the three most senior Fempiror to be at a formal questioning of the Tepish accused. Each point of the code is asked in turn, and Krill's answers will be noted and used in a public hearing.

KAPLIN

As a body, we all decide the fate of Kevin Krill.

DAVID

How very democratic.

KALTESH

We try to be fair. After all, we aren't the enemy, and sometimes, we've found, they aren't either. Just misdirected.

DAVID

Have you ever captured anyone this high on their food chain though?

KAPLIN

There hasn't been a food chain, per se, for years now. We know Krill was Erech's right hand, but how much he actually knows is unknown.

DAVID

The Cortz Sufru are bodyguards. They make no decisions, but they are always at a Malnak's side. He should know quite a bit, and even if his death is called for under the code, we should keep him around to see what we can learn.

KALTESH

I agree, but ultimately, that isn't our decision.

KAPLIN

Though I can delay his death for  
a little while we work on him.

DAVID

So when do we start?

KAPLIN

He's awake. We just wanted to  
brief you first.

Kaplin and Kaltesh rise and walk out.

DAVID

Thanks. I guess.

David follows.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The Levi-Cart tube emerges above the surface. A Day Levi-Cart,  
essentially a Levi-Cart with UV-Blocker-tinted windows, zips out  
over the surface of the water. The tube dips back beneath the  
surface.

INT. LEVI-CART

Childress drives. Vera rides shotgun, looking out the window.

VERA

It's weird seeing the sun.

CHILDRESS

I know. You get used to a schedule  
and then they zing you.

VERA

I'm just glad Mutation duty doesn't  
always result in a call. Not even  
a spotting if there is a call.

CHILDRESS

Well, thanks to our new friend,  
we're now supposed to check near  
by structures for habitation.

VERA

Makes sense, I guess.

EXT. LEVI-CART - DAY

The Levi-Cart flies over land. It closes in on the road, which zips past beneath them. They touch down and keep going.

INT. LEVI-CART - DAY

The inside jars a bit as the vehicle hits the pavement. Vera balances herself.

VERA

Driving on the road. There's a memory. I remember road racing with my girlfriends. That was some fun stuff.

CHILDRESS

Dangerous, if I understand it right. Back in my day, we still had horseless carriages.

VERA

Yeah, you're an old timer.

CHILDRESS

If I weren't an old timer, I'd probably have taken you and your girlfriends downtown for those road races. While I've never scoured the law books, it just sounds illegal.

VERA

You still have that cop mentality, don't you?

CHILDRESS

I was only a detective for three weeks. Should have stayed on days.

VERA

But then you wouldn't have this fun job.

CHILDRESS

I was born in 1894. I'd be dead by now.

VERA

Oh, that's right. We need to mummify you or something.

CHILDRESS

Who's almost a senior citizen?

VERA

We ain't going there.

She looks out the window at the passing landscape.

VERA

Any regrets?

CHILDRESS

Regrets? Not really. I was a bachelor by trade. All this was was a career change. Hardly noticed.

VERA

Yeah, Mr. Bachelor who's sweet on Miss Daytime in the Levi-Cart bay.

CHILDRESS

Who, Triega? Nah, professional interest only.

VERA

Key word being interest.

CHILDRESS

You brought this up. You have regrets?

VERA

I dunno. I was a delinquent and up to no good. I probably would have ended up in jail or dead by the time I was 30. I do miss my man though. We were hot together. Some good memories there.

CHILDRESS

Those good memories got you in trouble a couple of time after you were changed.

Vera looks out the window.

VERA

Yeah, but I wonder about him sometimes, though. Wonder how he got on without me. He'd be fifty-five or fifty-six by now, I think. Just a little older than I am.

CHILDRESS

Just think of him as one of the many we're trying to keep safe.

VERA

Yeah. I do.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The Levi-cart zips by. The town looms in the distance.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - OUTER CELLBLOCK - DAY

The guard opens the door to the cell block. Kaplin leads in Kaltesh and David. They walk down a short hall.

KAPLIN

Has he given you any trouble?

GUARD

No sir, model prisoner.

KAPLIN

Has he said anything?

GUARD

No sir, model prisoner.

The guard reaches a door with a numerical keypad. He presses a series of numbers. The door audibly unlocks.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - INNER CELLBLOCK

The guard leads the trio down a short hallway to the cell where Kevin Krill sits. He looks up at them and smiles.

KEVIN

Hello, gentlemen. I've been waiting for you.

KAPLIN

I imagine so.

KEVIN

You have nothing to worry about from me, I assure you. I am completely at your disposal.

The trio all exchange glances.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - PRISON ROOM - DAY

Kevin's hands are folded in his lap as he sits in a plain chair with nothing around him. Kaplin, David, and Kaltesh sit across from Kevin with a small table in front of all three of them. Kaplin has a sheet of paper in front of him.

KAPLIN

Kevin Krill, do you know what's going to happen here?

KEVIN

Not really. I've been in the service of the Tepish since they transmuted me in 1912 so I'm not familiar with anything else.

KAPLIN

You are here to answer charges based on the Rastem Code which was established in 1408 as the core of all Fempiror law as it relates to the human race and ourselves. This was enacted in response to the Tepish idealism of desiring human genocide.

KEVIN

But humanity hates us. They would kill you if they had the chance, and you know that. You have to. I mean, you have a city underwater. You know why? Because you fear humanity finding you.

DAVID

While you may have a point, changing humans into Fempiror is not the answer.



KAPLIN

David, this is not the time for rebuttal. Mr. Krill, you will have the opportunity to speak later. For now, we have an interview to conduct.

DAVID

Sorry.

KAPLIN

Kevin Krill, answer yes or no to the following questions which are based on the Rastem Code. David and I will each read one question; Kaltesh will read two. Do you understand?

KEVIN

Yes.

Kaplin looks at Kaltesh.

KALTESH

Point one: Do everything in your power to prevent willing transmutation of humans. Have you upheld this point of the code?

KEVIN

No.

KAPLIN

Point two: If willing transmutation occurs, the transmutater will be put to death, and the new Fempiror will be trained as a Rastem to uphold the code. Have you upheld this point of the code?

KEVIN

Wow, you guys are harsh. The Tepish would never just kill someone like that.

David scoffs. Kaplin shoots him a look. David waves him off apologetically. Kaplin looks at Kevin.

KAPLIN

Please answer the question.

KEVIN

No. Obviously.

DAVID

Point three: If the new Fempiror will not be trained, then they will be put to service within the Fempiror world where they cannot harm any human unintentionally.

KEVIN

Unintentionally? How is that even possible?

DAVID

Believe me, it can happen. The irony of my reading this point is not lost on me.

KALTESH

Thought you'd like that.

KAPLIN

The question, David.

DAVID

Sorry. Have you upheld this point of the code?

KEVIN

No.

KALTESH

Point four: Under no circumstances should a new Fempiror be permitted to return to the human world until properly trained and instructed. Have you upheld this point of the code?

KEVIN

No. And you know why? Because the Tepish believe that people want to return home for the support and comfort of their family. We let them go.

DAVID

Only to be rejected by them and sometimes killed.

KAPLIN

Mr. Krill, as you have answered no to the four points of the code, a public hearing will be held later today. At that time, you will be able to state your case in front of the Fempiror of this city. That is all.

Kaplin, Kaltesh, and David file out of the room. The guard re-enters.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - INNER CELLBLOCK - DAY

The trio walks away from the room door.

DAVID

Sorry about that. I guess I got carried away.

KAPLIN

You may be older than me, but you need to learn to shut up.

DAVID

Not the first time I've heard that.

Kaplin walks ahead of them. David looks at Kaltesh. Kaltesh shrugs. They follow.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The Levi-Cart pulls up to a park bordering an apartment building. Childress and Vera, both wearing day travel cloaks, exit the vehicle.

They walk to a point on the park grass and stop. Childress pulls out his communicator.

CHILDRESS

Ok, Al. Is this the place?

AL (V.O.)

That's it. See if you can find somewhere for the Mutation to have disappeared.

CHILDRESS

Which way did he go after you spotted him?

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - CONTROL ROOM

Al presses a few buttons. The screen changes to when the blue indicator was there. The dot travels off to one side and disappears.

Al presses a button on his panel.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

AL (V.O.)

Is there a structure to the North of you?

Childress and Vera look to the large apartment building next to the park.

CHILDRESS

Yes, there is.

AL (V.O.)

Anything else?

CHILDRESS

No, that'll do it.

Childress puts his communicator away. He and Vera stare up at the building for a moment.

CHILDRESS

Life was easier when you didn't have to search for them. You know how weird these things are, right?

VERA

Like hunting wild animals? Yeah, I've heard.

They walk slowly to the side of the building. Childress points up at the windows on the shaded wall.

CHILDRESS

They can climb sheer walls, too.

VERA

I'm hoping we come up empty, myself.

CHILDRESS

Yeah, me too.

They walk along the base of the building. They come upon a small stairway leading down to a door. Childress takes a breath and walks down the stairs.

He tests the door. It opens. He looks at Vera. She nods. They enter the building and close the door behind them.

INT. BUILDING - DAY

The interior of the building is dimly lit by bulbs that someone has painted to make them dimmer on the ceiling. They stand on a small platform off of which lead a set of stairs that extends further down.

CHILDRESS

(whispers)

Basement. It figures.

Vera nods. Childress draws his weapon, a pistol. Vera does the same. They tip toe down the stairs as silently as possible.

They reach a door at the lowest level. Childress tests the knob, It is unlocked. Childress slowly opens the door.

INT. BASEMENT ROOM - DAY

Childress looks into a large room containing around thirty people sleeping on the floor under blankets or on cots. Childress and Vera slip in silently.

No one is stirring or moving. Childress approaches one person who is facing their direction. He leans in. The person's mouth hangs open. Oversized canines dominate their mouth.

Childress stands and looks around the room in awe.

CHILDRESS

(whispers)

It's a whole nest of 'em!

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - KAPLIN'S OFFICE

Kaplin stands behind his desk. David and Kaltesh sit in front. Kaplin appears to be upset.

KAPLIN

If you're going to be a productive member of this community, you have got to learn to follow our procedures! Carrying on any kind of conversation during the code interview is expressly forbidden.

KALTESH

It wasn't so bad. I've seen much worse.

KAPLIN

I don't care! That's not the point! Don't encourage him!

DAVID

I still want to find out why Erech didn't just kill him. I think there's something to that.

KALTESH

I think you have a point.

KAPLIN

It doesn't matter! You store up all your little questions and you can ask everything you want during the public hearing. That's what it's for!

DAVID

I just think it's very strange that the Elrod Malnak would allow the one person who knows all of his secrets to fall into the hands of the enemy. He's up to something.

KAPLIN

Thank you. We're all challenged by your unique point of view, but until you take over, the rules we've followed for over a hundred years will be followed.

KALTESH

Sir, if you'll pardon the modernism: chill out.

DAVID

That was remarkably hip.

KALTESH

I'm hip. I'm happenin'. I can get jiggy with it. This old man's got some spunk.

DAVID

I don't think I've ever heard you talk like that.

KALTESH

That's ok. No one else has either.  
Not exactly in my character, but  
I can understand most of it.

DAVID

Impressive. I can't understand  
most of it.

KAPLIN

Can we please stick to the point?

DAVID

What is the point? Public hearing.  
Today. Later. We know this. Al  
will make a big announcement and  
we'll all show up.

KAPLIN

Right. The public hearing is when  
you can ask all your questions.  
Everyone in this city is on our  
side, so all questions and answers  
from a Tepish are considered  
public knowledge.

DAVID

Really?

KAPLIN

You're dismissed.

INT. BASEMENT ROOM - DAY

Childress and Vera walk between the sleeping Mutations on a path  
between sides, their weapons at the ready. They both look  
extremely nervous.

VERA

(whispers)

I'd really like to leave now.

Childress nods.



CHILDRESS  
(whispers)  
Yeah.

A whimper sounds from across the room. It sounds like someone crying.

CHILDRESS  
(whispers)  
What's that?

VERA  
(whispers)  
I don't know.

The crying continues.

VERA  
(whispers)  
Dammit, this is not good.

CHILDRESS  
(whispers)  
It's coming from behind that door.

VERA  
(whispers)  
Ok, but let's make it quick.

Childress approaches the door and tests the knob. It's unlocked. He opens the door. It swings inward.

Childress shines his light inside a dank room. There are a handful of people inside, tied to rings on the floor. Only one moves. She looks up fearfully at Childress.

In the basement room, a Mutation opens his eyes and looks to where Childress and Vera stand. He rises.

Childress and Vera hurry into the room. The girl, NANCY MORROW, 22 and undernourished, stares silently now, tears running down her face. Childress works on the knot.

CHILDRESS  
(whispers)  
We're here to help you. Just relax.

NANCY

(whispers, through sobs)

I'm the only one alive. The others  
are dead. They died.

CHILDRESS

(whispers)

Sh. We'll have a look at them in  
a minute.

Nancy suddenly shrieks fearfully. Childress and Vera turn to the door. A Mutation stands there, a sickening smile on his face.

Vera aims her weapon. The Mutation growls at them and slams the door.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - STREET - DAY

Outside the city theatre, Fempiror walk inside to the proceedings.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - THEATRE - DAY

A large building that can be used for movies, meetings, or musicals. The inhabitants of the city file in and take their seats. On one side of the stage is Kevin Krill, sitting unrestrained in a chair and watching the people come in.

On the other side of the stage are Kaplin, Kaltesh, and David. David and Kaltesh sit at a table in chairs. Kaplin stands at a podium, overseeing the hearing.

The place is in an uproar.

KAPLIN

Order! This meeting must come to order!

Kaltesh leans over to David.

KALTESH

Who would have thought that little example would bring down the house?

DAVID

Never given me trouble before.

KALTESH

Never?

DAVID

Not recently.

The room settles for one Fempiror, SETH, to speak into a microphone provided by Beth, who stands near him.

SETH

So what you're telling me is if I go out and bang some chick I knew, it's an accident?

KAPLIN

Not at all. David's incident occurred mere days after his initial transmutation.

SETH

But he did it on purpose.

Kaltesh stands.

KALTESH

He went to her on purpose, but the consequences of his actions were not known to him at the time.

SETH

What do you know, Kaltesh? Were you there?

KALTESH

Yes, I was.

Seth steps out and leaves. Kaplin sighs.

KAPLIN

Now that we've reviewed the charges and covered questions about the code, we grant Kevin Krill the opportunity to speak on his behalf.

Kaplin steps back. Kevin stands and walks to the podium.

KEVIN

I don't know if this will mean anything to any of you, but I became a member of the Tepish Order right after I was transmuted in 1912. I followed the Tepish plan which is go home to be rejected and come crawling back. Like any young Tepish, I was angry, and they encourage the anger. But they also require you

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

to do what you are told or you die. So we follow the leader, who was and is Erech. I don't know much about life outside of how I've lived for the last ninety years. What happens here if you don't want to serve your leader, Kaplin?

KAPLIN

They are fr-

Kevin holds up his hand.

KEVIN

I didn't ask you. I want to know from them.

A hand goes up. Beth walks the microphone to a woman, LANA MURPHY.

LANA

I was there when you were hurt. I was the only one to not board the truck. I've only been here as long as you have, but I've been treated so well, I don't want to go back up there. I've been asked if I want to be an agent, and I told them I don't know. Not right now. I've been told by people that later, when I know what all this is about, I can come and go as I please.

Carla raises her hand. She sits next to Alex in the audience. Beth walks the microphone to her.

CARLA

Hi, I'm Carla, and these guys have been so nice. I mean, my parents were killed by your buddy, Erech, and my brother got changed, but I didn't. I'm still human. These people take care of you. They are here to make sure you can still live.

Carla sits down. Kevin stares out into the audience for some time. Everyone sits silently. Other hands go up.

Kevin holds up his hand. He looks down at nothing in particular. He takes a deep breath. Looks back up.

KEVIN

I don't want to die. I know where I've come from and what I've done, and I probably deserve to. But also know that in that situation, you don't have a choice. Do or die. Look, I know Erech and his plans. I've heard most of them. I can be a lot of help if you let me live.

David stands.

DAVID

I know you can. But I also know that Erech knows this too. I've only ever had one question for you: why are you alive?

Kevin smiles and nods.

KEVIN

I was wondering if that would come up.

DAVID

Of course it would. You are the right hand man to the head of the Tepish order. If I were Erech, I would kill you.

KEVIN

And I would too. And yet...

DAVID

And yet, here you are.

KEVIN

Erech is the most cunning person I've ever met in my long life. I may have been in the order, but I've known a lot of people. None are more devious or intelligent than Erech. I'm alive, and I don't know why, but I can guarantee you this: he had a reason. But this time, I wasn't in on it.

INT. BASEMENT BACK ROOM - DAY

Vera and Childress sit in the room with the girl. Vera has a flashlight in her hand, pointed toward the ceiling, dimly lighting the room.

Childress presses a button on his communicator. A red light flashes. He nods to Vera.

NANCY

They were in here before I was, but I don't know how long ago that was. Seems like forever.

VERA

Well, it's Tuesday now.

NANCY

Last night then. Wow, only that long?

She shakes her head.

NANCY

So you guys are like FBI or something?

CHILDRESS

Not exactly. We handle little problems like this, but we don't usually get caught.

Sounds drifts in from the other room. They look to the door. Vera looks at Nancy.

VERA

Nancy, how many times have you been bitten?

NANCY

I don't know. I fainted once or twice. I woke up once to find one of them sucking on my leg.

VERA

Can I check you over?

Nancy nods. Vera looks at Childress. He smirks and turns around. Throughout, Childress stand in front of the women, obscuring Nancy completely, except her head.

CHILDRESS

You know, I'm old enough to control myself.

VERA

It's principle and you know it, you dirty old man.

NANCY

Have you guys worked together long?

Vera laughs.

VERA

You might say it seems like decades.

CHILDRESS

Two of them?

VERA

A tad longer.

NANCY

Are you guys being serious or joking?

VERA

Never mind. This is going to get personal. Pants down.



Nancy disappears for a moment as the sound of her pants dropping is heard. Vera goes to her knees.

CHILDRESS

Well?

VERA

Got some dirty minded Mutations  
out there is all I've gotta say.

CHILDRESS

How many bites?

VERA

(to Nancy)

Get dressed.

(to Childress)

Poor thing has twelve bite marks.  
She's lost so much blood that if  
they have at her again, she may  
not survive.

NANCY

I heard that.

Vera turns to her.

VERA

I'm not trying to sugarcoat it.  
We've got to get you out of here.

NANCY

How are you going to do that?

CHILDRESS

It's what we do. I activated our  
distress signal. We'll get help  
shortly if we can't help ourselves.

One of the people who was lying on the ground dead rises. It is a man in his late 20's he turns his head and looks at Nancy. He rises to his feet. They turn to him.

He smiles a toothy smile featuring large canines. Nancy screams, crawling away. Childress draws his weapon and pops a bullet in the new Mutation's head. It falls to the ground, dead.

NANCY

Don't you have to stab in the heart with a stake or something?

CHILDRESS

No. Those are fairy tales. Reality is that these are creatures like any other, and a bullet in its brain kills it.

The door opens. Vera draws her weapon. Childress turns his to the door. Mutations stand in the doorway. Childress and Vera fire.

Several Mutations fall dead before they realize what is going on. Several jump into the room and crawl along the walls in a hoard, landing directly behind Childress and Vera, disarming them.

A Mutation pulls Childress' communicator from his pocket, the light still flashing. He smiles and tosses it against a wall, smashing it.

The several Mutations bite into Childress and Vera and drink. Nancy cowers in a corner, watching unnoticed.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - THEATRE

Al runs down a hall leading into the theatre proper where the debate continues.

FEMPIROR AGENT

This is ridiculous. Tepish won't change their ways.

ALEX

That's not true.

Everyone looks over to Alex, standing all of a sudden.

FEMPIROR AGENT

You're new. What do you know?

ALEX

I know that my parents...well, adoptive parents, anyway. They were Tepish before they found me and my sister after they killed our real parents. They took us away from death and raised us for the last fifteen years as normal as they could be. I didn't know they were Fempiror, much less Tepish until the night they died. Whatever you know, I know it can happen.

Kaltesh stands on stage.

KALTESH

That's not the only instance either. Following a battle in which a group of Rastem defeated a large number of Tepish, our leader, Tiberius offered the surviving Tepish instant forgiveness if they joined as Rastem. We did not have one turn against us.

David stands.

DAVID

But these examples are simple warriors, not the masterminds behind the Tepish, and certainly no one so close to a Malnak. Kevin Krill was Erech's bodyguard. He was sworn to defend Erech's life with his own. I don't know that we can trust him.

Al runs up on stage and whispers to Kaplin. Kaplin's visage grows dark as he listens. Kaplin steps up to the mike.

KAPLIN

We've had an emergency situation arise. I need agents thirty-five, thirty-nine, and forty-one on stage immediately. This meeting is adjourned until further notice.

Two Fempiror walk on stage and retrieve Kevin, walking him off. PHILIP HADRAN (Agent 35), ROD PRINCE (Agent 39), LUCAS GRIFFIN (Agent 41) walk on stage. David and Kaltesh walk over to Kaplin.

KAPLIN

Childress and Vera were investigating a blue alert just before the meeting. Childress sent a distress signal, and shortly thereafter, his signal disappeared. I want David and Kaltesh to lead you three in there to get them out. Al will tell you where you're all going. One Levi-Cart. No mistakes.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The pipe emerges above the ocean surface. A Levi-cart bursts out of it and flies at high speed towards land, completely disregarding the road they usually land on.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. CITY - DAY

The Levi-cart blasts over the town.

INT. LEVI-CART - DAY

David and Kaltesh sit in the back seat with Lucas. Philip drives with Rod riding shotgun. David looks out the window and then forward.

DAVID

I was wondering if there were times we could fly during the day.

PHILIP

Normal rules are for normal times. When we have a distress signal, rules are out the window. We get there as fast as possible.

ROD

Well, you two are in charge. Did you have a strategy in mind?

DAVID

It's a little hard without seeing the situation. If it is Mutations, then they may have Childress and Vera outnumbered.

KALTESH

Close quarters.

PHILIP

So hit everything that moves and don't get any blood on you?

DAVID

That's the basics, yes. If they went into a room, then you three could take the door while Kaltesh and I make our way to where Childress and Vera are being held.

ROD

That sounds like a plan to me.

LUCAS

Yeah, until we find out that we're dealing with something completely different.

KALTESH

That's why the plan is tentative. We'll figure out the details when we get there.

PHILIP

We're here.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The Levi-Cart comes to a quick touchdown right behind Childress' Levi-Cart. The five exit the vehicle wearing day travel cloaks.

DAVID

Impressive parking job.

PHILIP

Years of practice.

Philip pulls out his communicator.

PHILIP

Al, where are we going?

AL (V.O.)

There's a building to the North. That's where they went.

Philip puts away the communicator. David and Kaltesh draw their swords. The agents trail behind them as they reach the door. David opens the door and looks in. It's dark.

They walk in, David and Kaltesh leading the group down the stairs to the door at the bottom.

INT. BASEMENT ROOM - DAY

David opens the door. The Mutations are at the far end of the room looking in a door. They turn.

DAVID

Uh-oh.

David steps in followed by Kaltesh, Philip, Rod, and then Lucas. David and Kaltesh stand with their swords at the ready. The three agents have their firearms out.

The Mutations lunge for them.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - OUTER CELLBLOCK

The Guard walks down the hall with Alex.

GUARD

No, seeing him isn't a problem.  
You can see our jail isn't  
exactly overflowing. That's  
why it's so small.

ALEX

I just don't want to get you  
into trouble.

GUARD

No trouble at all. The mayor  
said anyone could see him like  
a normal prisoner, but he wants  
to know what is discussed.

ALEX

That's fine.

GUARD

Ok. Here we are.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - INNER CELLBLOCK

Kevin sits in his cell, staring at the floor. The door opens outside his cell. He looks up.

Alex walks up to his cell as the guard steps back. Kevin remains seated and looks at Alex.

ALEX

Hi. I'm Alex Smith.

KEVIN

I remember your face from the hearing.

ALEX

I just wanted to talk to you. Just some questions. I don't know if you can answer them or not.

KEVIN

I'll do the best I can.

ALEX

William and Karen. Did you know them?

Kevin smiles.

KEVIN

Ah, so those were your parents.

He looks away for a moment and laughs, as if from a memory. He looks back to Alex.

KEVIN

Yes, of course I knew them. They were with Erech when I was changed. I worked a whaling ship back then. They kept calling me Krill, but I to stay with Kevin. And I become one of few Tepish with a first and last name.

ALEX

What were they like?



KEVIN

They were some of the most non-Tepish Tepish there were. You could tell they were married, and happily so. They always worked together. They were like one mind in two people. I liked them. I missed them when they disappeared. I heard about their punishment. You people don't understand. Once you're in, you're trapped. You know what they did to William and Karen. That's what they do if you try to leave. Some people are angry, but most of us are afraid.

ALEX

David said you were pretty adamant earlier.

KEVIN

Kid, I don't know how I feel right now. Ninety years of a habit is very hard to break, and I've been taught to hate you for a long time.

ALEX

I'm sorry. I'll go. Thanks for talking to me.

KEVIN

No problem. I can't speak for everyone in the Tepish because there are some bad seeds in there, and they aren't to be trusted.

ALEX

Can you be trusted?

KEVIN

That's not my decision, is it?

Alex looks at him for a moment and then nods. He exits. Kevin stares back down at the floor.

INT. BASEMENT ROOM - DAY

The Mutations climbs walls and traverse the ceiling and floor at lightning speed towards the five intruders. The three agents crack off shot after shot, sometimes hitting the target, and sometimes the target dodging them.

DAVID

(to the agents)

Cover us and hold the door!

They nod. Kaltesh and David slice at the Mutations coming at them. They walk sideways through the room almost back to back but facing mostly forward. The Mutations avoid their swords for a short term in front of them, but are eventually cut down.

Mutations who try to attack David or Kaltesh from the back or side are shot with precision accuracy from the agents at the door.

David and Kaltesh reach the door at the far end. It stands open and they enter.

INT. BASEMENT BACK ROOM - DAY

David and Kaltesh enter to find Childress and Vera on the floor bleeding, Nancy passed out in the corner of the room, and three Mutations rising to their feet, having snacked on Vera and Childress.

The Mutations strike! Without the defense from the agents, Kaltesh and David are two on three.

Two of them set themselves on David while one goes after Kaltesh. David swings at them, one after another to keep them at bay. With their lightning reflexes, they each avoid his blows. One of them leaps onto the ceiling. The other rushes David.

David swings at the rushing Mutation while the other comes down on his shoulders. It bites into his scalp.

Kaltesh takes several stabs at his Mutation. It dodges and parries, making several attempts to move in close. Kaltesh continues swiping at him unsuccessfully. It looks like a high speed choreographed dance battle.

Blood rushes down David's forehead. He swings at the other Mutation to hold it back. He reaches up and grabs the hair of the one perched on his shoulders. Throws the shoulder Mutation against the wall.

The toss catches the attention of the second Mutation giving David the split second he needs to run him through. However, with David's sword detained, the shoulder Mutation leaps to his feet and tackles David to the ground.

David withdraws his sword from the second Mutation, but it is flung over his head and embeds into the wall behind him,

Kaltesh continues to battle his Mutation. With a quick fake of his blade, the Mutation makes to dodge, but Kaltesh brings his blade around slicing it across the gut. The Mutation lunges for Kaltesh, but its injury slows it down.

Kaltesh sidesteps his foe and runs his sword through the Mutation's back.

David's Mutation is on top of him, trying to bite down. The two struggle against each other's strength. David gets a grip on the Mutation's jaw, trying to push it away.

As the Mutation nears close enough for David to smell its breath, David jerks down on its jaw.

CRACK! The Mutation jerks back, its jaw broken. Kaltesh runs his sword through the injured Mutation.

Kaltesh withdraws his blade. He sheathes it and holds his hand out to David. David takes it.

DAVID

Thanks.

KALTESH

No problem. Are you okay? Did he get any blood in your wound?

DAVID

I don't think so. I'll have doctor Fenrik have a look when we get back.

They move to Vera and Childress. The other three agents enter.

LUCAS  
Situation handled outside.

ROD  
What we didn't hit ran off.

PHILIP  
I've already called for clean-up.

KALTESH  
They've been heavily drained. We  
need to rush them back.

LUCAS  
What about her?

Lucas points to Nancy, still huddled in the corner.

DAVID  
Take them to the Levi-Carts. We  
may have to take her with us to  
make sure she's ok.

KALTESH  
David, you're bleeding. If she's  
still human, it's too risky.

DAVID  
Right.

Lucas picks up Childress. Rod picks up Vera. They walk out with  
David in tow. Philip stays behind.

DAVID  
(to Philip)  
Are you coming?

PHILIP  
Get the Levi-Carts ready to  
go, Childress in one and Vera  
in the other. We'll be up in a  
moment.

DAVID  
Sure.

David exits. Kaltesh helps Nancy to her feet.

KALTESH

So you never touched any of their blood.

NANCY

I don't think so. What's going to happen to me?

KALTESH

I'm sure it's nothing. We have a doctor who can check you out for free to make sure you're ok.

NANCY

Okay. I am a little hungry.

KALTESH

You've lost a lot of blood. I'm sure you're very tired as well.

NANCY

I am. Whoa!

Nancy loses her footing and almost collapses. She grips onto Kaltesh.

KALTESH

Easy there.

Kaltesh lifts her up to carry her. He walks through the Basement Room, now littered with the bodies of the Mutations. Philip walks into the back room.

He kneels down beside the other bodies. One is the Mutation that was killed by Childress. He checks the other body. That of a woman.

He feels of her head. He peels her lips back to check her teeth. She is also a Mutation, but unconscious. He stands and draws his weapon. He pops a hole in her head. Walks out.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - HOSPITAL - DAY

David sits with DR. MORGAN FENRIK, the doctor of the city who appears to be 36. David has a bandage wrapped around his head. Alex runs in.

ALEX

David! I heard you were bitten.  
Are you okay? Are you going to  
change into one of them?

DAVID

If I were going to change, it  
would be all over for me. I'm  
fine.

ALEX

I don't get it. I thought a  
Mutation bit did you in.

FENRIK

Never has. In order to become a  
Mutation, the bite isn't enough  
any more than contact will make  
a human a Fempiror. Their blood  
has to enter your bloodstream  
first. They usually do this by  
biting their own tongue and  
licking the wounds of their victims  
giving it the appearance of the  
bite causing the change.

ALEX

Oh. I didn't know that.

DAVID

So you came in to check on me?  
How sweet of you.

FENRIK

You're free to go, David. Once  
Childress and Vera have some  
rest, they'll be fine too.

DAVID

What about the girl?

Fenrik sighs. He leads David and Alex to a bed where Nancy lies unconscious.

FENRIK

She went comatose not too long ago. Since they continued feeding on her, her blood loss was accelerated, so she entered the second phase very quickly.

ALEX

What does that mean?

DAVID

It means that in three days, she will wake up as a Mutation.

FENRIK

And since we can't let that happen, it means I have a very unpleasant duty to perform.

Fenrik looks down at her. She looks very peaceful in sleep. Fenrik fights back tears.

FENRIK

This is the part of this job I really hate. I wish there was something I could do for her.

DAVID

We'll leave you to your work.  
(to Alex)  
Come on, Alex.

Fenrik nods. David and Alex exit. Fenrik pushes a wisp of hair out of Nancy's face.

FENRIK

(to himself, reverent)

Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God.

He disconnects Nancy's table from the wall and pushes it through a set of double doors.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - STREET

Kaplin stands outside the prison with David, Kaltesh, and other members of the town. Kevin walks out of the prison accompanied by an agent. He walks up to Kaplin.

KAPLIN

It is our standard practice for you to be accompanied in all you do by an agent for the next three years. If you can prove to me within that time that you are not up to no good, then you will be free to do as you wish.

KEVIN

Thank you for the opportunity. Perhaps during this time, I can also be of some assistance to you.

KAPLIN

That may help to convince me. Do not try to evade your escort. I will rotate your escorts periodically, but if they report to me anything suspicious, I will investigate. Clear?

KEVIN

Crystal.



KAPLIN

The agent will take you to your new quarters and show you around the city. Don't make me regret this.

KEVIN

I won't. Thank you.

Kevin holds out his hand. Kaplin shakes it. Kevin walks away past Kaltesh and David. Standing next to David is Beth.

The crowd disperses. David and Beth walk away together.

BETH

Well? You're quiet.

David nods.

BETH

You don't trust him.

David shrugs.

DAVID

I don't know him. He started out sounding like a Tepish, and then he changed his tune to being misled. I'm not sure whether or not to believe him.

BETH

I know. I'm sure he isn't the first Tepish to be misled or coerced or whatever.

DAVID

No. I had a friend once who was forced into service for the Tepish. He still regrets what he did for them.

BETH

What did he do?

DAVID

He created the Mutations.

Beth's face opens up in surprise. David looks at her and smiles.

DAVID

Kind of what I thought you'd say.

BETH

Well, it's just- I had no idea  
you knew-

DAVID

Hey, didn't you promise me a  
date?

BETH

Sure, drop a bombshell like that  
and change the subject.

DAVID

It's just another story. I'm full  
of them. Had a full and interesting  
life.

BETH

I'll say...and to your request,  
sorry, I've got to work tonight.  
In fact, it's about that time  
anyway.

Beth walks away from him.

DAVID

Another time?

Beth stops and turns to him with a smile.

BETH

Sure. Another time.

DAVID

I'll hold you to that, you know?

Beth smiles and nods.

BETH

I know.

She turns and walks away. David stretches and heads off in another direction.

END OF ACT FOUR