

THE FEMPIROR CHRONICLES
GENESIS OF THE MUTATION

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ERIM - NIGHT

SUPER: October 1785

The Erim nightlife is eerily quiet. Dominating the cityscape is an enormous, seven-story fortress. Those that recognize the city will note this is in the exact location of the former ERIM COUNCIL HALL.

A black speck crawls up the side of the wall, closing in on a window. Closer inspection reveals this to a Fempiror dressed in ELEWO garb clinging to small protrusions on the side of the building.

The Elewo looks through the window at a group of Tepish scientists standing over an unconscious form on a table.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

One of those with the scientists is VLADIMIR, aged only a year over the last 10. All 3 of them appear quite old. Vladimir has taken on the dress of the Tepish red and black armor. The scientists are dressed plainly.

TEPISH SCIENTIST 1

Your protégé has found himself quite good with the mixtures. For the first time, I think we have made significant progress.

VLADIMIR

We still require results. What has happened so far with this batch?

TEPISH SCIENTIST 1

The initial injection was given 10 days ago. Over that time, the subject's blood supply very slowly dissipated until he finally fell into this comatose state.

VLADIMIR

Why did it take so long?

TEPISH SCIENTIST 2

Uncertain. Voivode's original serum took effect immediately. This mutation of it takes much longer.

VLADIMIR

But will it do what we need it to?

The Elewo crawls through the window and up to the side of a table, upon which are several vials filled with a dark, red liquid.

TEPISH SCIENTIST 1

During the transition, it began to affect the subject slowly. Look here.

The scientist pulls back the subject's gums to reveal elongated canines.

TEPISH SCIENTIST 1

These began elongating after 7 days.

VLADIMIR

Good. What about this blood dissipation?

TEPISH SCIENTIST 2

The subject did not bleed to death, but the body gives the appearance of doing so. Over the 10 day period, the subject grew very pallid and as we checked, we noticed the blood level continued decreasing.

VLADIMIR

In your opinion, what will happen when the subject awakens.

TEPISH SCIENTIST 1

I believe he'll want a refill.

VLADIMIR

Excellent. Prepare a report for
our contact in Kelirum.

The Elewo snatches one of the vials and climbs back out the window. Vladimir sees the Elewo disappearing.

VLADIMIR

Hey!

Vladimir and the scientists run to the window and look out.

EXT. TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

The Elewo quickly scales down the rough exterior of the fortress.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

Vladimir turns to the scientists.

VLADIMIR

Raise the alarm!

One of the scientists breaks away from the window and runs out the door into a long hallway.

TEPISH SCIENTIST 2

Do you think he heard anything?

VLADIMIR

It won't matter. They can't stop
it once it starts.

EXT. TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

The Elewo hits the ground running full speed away from the Fortress. Only footfalls break the silence of the night.

Suddenly, a sound breaks the silence - a low hum.

EXT. ERIM ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

The Elewo charges around the corner down the alleyway. The hum grows louder. FOUR CHASERS fly around the corner, hot on the Elewo's tail.

As they approach the Elewo, they try to slash at him. He ducks and rolls under the blades. The Elewo jumps between buildings to the rooftops. The Chasers turn their rigs upward and scale the walls.

EXT. ERIM ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

As the first Chaser reaches the roof, the Elewo delivers a smashing hit and throws the Chaser completely off balance. It crashes to the ground.

The others avoid it and reach the roof. The Elewo runs from rooftop to rooftop being chased by the Chasers.

The Elewo reaches the side of a taller building. He tries to scale the side, but notices a Chaser close in. He jumps off the building just before he's hit.

In the center of the rooftop, the Chasers circle, preparing for the kill.

VOICE (O.S.)

Elewo!

Everyone looks up to find another dark figure, this time dressed in the time worn garb of a Rastem. He jumps down to stand with the Elewo. It is DAVID TAYLOR looking only a year older, about 18.

DAVID

I am with you, friend.

Back to back, they face the Chasers. The Chasers attack. David draws his sword and slashes at the driver, cutting him down. The Elewo leaps at his driver and kicks the driver off his mount. He falls off the side of the building to his death.

With the Elewo in control of the Chaser, the other Chaser attacks. David slices at him, but he avoids the blow. The Elewo slams the Chaser into the side of the other one. He blocks one blow, then delivers a final crack to the jaw.

With the driver disoriented, the Elewo jumps off the Chaser and both of them go over the edge. They crash on the ground below.

David walks up behind the Elewo.

DAVID

Well done.

The Elewo turns to him. He remains strangely silent, only the eyes visible in the dark mask. The eyes, however, register surprise.

DAVID

Are you well? I'm David, a Rastem.

He puts out his hand in friendship. The Elewo backs away from him. Tears flow out of the eyes. A female voice issues from the Elewo.

FEMALE

I know who you are.

David looks at her incredulous for just a moment.

DAVID

Beth?

VOICES sound from below. David turns to it. Beth back flips off the top of the building and disappears over the side. David spins back around and runs to where she disappeared.

Her dark figure runs away far below. David jumps off the building behind her.

EXT. ERIM ROADWAY - NIGHT

He lands softly enough, but she is long gone. He turns to the growing sounds. He bolts off in another direction, but is surrounded by Tepish guards.

They circle him. He stands ready. A BURLY GUARD breaks from the circle, laughing, and approaches him.

BURLY GUARD

You're a new one. This should be
easy.

The Burly Guard draws his sword and slashes at David. David deflects the blow and runs the guard through. He withdraws it and stands ready to take on the rest.

They charge him. He holds his own against the onslaught, slashing at some targets and deflecting blows with his wrist and ankle gauntlets. However, he becomes overwhelmed.

SUDDENLY, TIBERIUS and ULRICH, with several Rastem and Elewo warriors, led by Beth, jump into the scene to assist David in his hopeless battle.

The Rastem and Elewo overwhelm the meager contingent of Tepish Guards. The Guards break away and run back for the fortress. The Rastem and Elewo do not give chase.

DAVID

(to Tiberius)

Thanks.

TIBERIUS

I hope you weren't out looking for
trouble.

David turns to the figure of Beth, who is walking away with Ulrich and the other Elewo. She turns to look at him, and then looks away.

DAVID

No...but I found it.

INT. RASTEM HIDEOUT - NIGHT

Tiberius sits listening to David, who reclines on a cot.

DAVID

I never thought I'd see her again. She hasn't changed at all in the last ten years.

TIBERIUS

It's the nature of our race. You both look barely eighteen, but in reality, you're ten years older. Is that what happened out there?

DAVID

I watched her scale the side of the Tepish building, climb in and back out. I followed her as she was chased, and jumped in to help her when she was attacked. I had no idea who she was until she spoke. I didn't even know she was still with Ulrich after he took her away.

TIBERIUS

I was unaware you even wanted to know.

DAVID

No, of course not. I mean, we didn't part well.

TIBERIUS

I remember.

EXT. OPEN PLAINS - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

ABRAHAM BARBER, at 17, climbs his way onto the back of the Levi-Cart. Beth lies unconscious in the seat next to David. David spots Abraham.

ABRAHAM

I can't allow you to poison the world.

DAVID

I'm not going to. She was an accident.

ABRAHAM

No more accidents, then!

They struggle briefly, but David overpowers Abraham. He holds him on the brink of the Cart.

DAVID

Forgive me, old friend.

ABRAHAM

I am not your friend. I will hunt you till the day I die.

DAVID

I know. Take care.

David tosses Abraham off the cart, and Abraham crashes to the ground, rolling several times before coming to a stop, face down in the grass.

David looks back to see Abraham come to his knees and shake his head. David looks back forward and turns the Levi-cart towards the Urufdiam cave.

As he passes the outskirts of Hauginstown, he looks to find the Old Mill in flames. His eyes grow wide. He turns the cart to the cave.

INT. CAVE UNDER OLD MILL - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

David pulls into the cave and stops the cart. He jumps out and looks around. Pieces of the burning Old Mill flutter through the hole that leads up to it.

DAVID

Zechariah!

He walks a few steps and notices the Chaser is gone. He smiles and turns back to the cart.

Suddenly, a body drops through the hole into a heap on the ground.

David freezes. He turns to find Zechariah on the ground, looking up at him. He is bleeding from a wound in his stomach and burned all over his body.

DAVID
Zechariah, what happened?

ZECHARIAH
(weakly)
Vladimir...won. Beware...of him.

DAVID
What do I do?

ZECHARIAH
Take my body...with you.

David picks Zechariah up and rests him in the back of the Levi-Cart. He blasts out of the Cave.

EXT. PLAINS AROUND HAUGINSTOWN - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

As David speeds away, the Old Mill collapses beneath itself - a grand bonfire lighting the night sky. Around the front of the mill, little specks of people cheer.

EXT. URUFDIAM CAVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

David speeds the Levi-cart towards the cave at the Urufdiam Plateau.

INT. URUFDIAM CAVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

David stops. Tiberius and Ulrich run in.

TIBERIUS
David! What is going on here?

Ulrich places a hand on Tiberius' shoulder. He points to Zechariah. The pair runs over to him, still reclining in the back of the Levi-cart.

TIBERIUS

Old friend...

Zechariah opens his eyes and looks at Tiberius.

ZECHARIAH

It was Vladimir. He betrayed us.

TIBERIUS

(re: David)

Did he lead you into a trap?

ZECHARIAH

No. He is naïve. He changed the girl by having relations with her. I hope you will be able to break him of his insolence.

Ulrich looks over to David, and then to Beth. He walks over to Beth and checks her over.

TIBERIUS

What about you?

ZECHARIAH

I will not survive. If I had not heard David's voice, I would have stayed to burn, so no accidents would occur.

TIBERIUS

Is there nothing we can do?

ZECHARIAH

No.

The old friends clasp hands.

ZECHARIAH

Good-bye, Tiberius. Be to him what you were to me.

TIBERIUS

Rest in peace, Zechariah.

ZECHARIAH

I finally will.

Tiberius watches as Zechariah's life ebbs away from him. Zechariah dies. Tiberius stands and looks at David, who stands off to the side.

TIBERIUS

Whatever he saw in you, it has saved you from me. You are lucky I am sane.

DAVID

Yes, sir.

BETH (O.S.)

Where am I? Who are you? David!

David runs over to Beth's side. Ulrich allows him to hold her hand.

DAVID

I'm here.

BETH

What happened? Where am I? What is going on?

DAVID

It was an accident. A terrible accident.

BETH

What was? What do you mean? Who are these people?

DAVID

You remember how I told you I couldn't come home because I changed?

BETH

Yes...

DAVID

The love we had made in the mill
changed you. I didn't know it
would.

BETH

What?

DAVID

You can't go home. You can't go out
into the sun. You are no longer like
our family and friends. You are a
Fempiror.

Beth looks at David for a moment. She rises to her feet and
turns away from him as if trying to find words.

BETH

Never go home?

DAVID

No.

Beth stands facing away from him. He searches for words.

DAVID

We can be together now, though...

Beth spins on him.

BETH

Oh, we can? Was that the plan? Is
that why you came back? I can never
see my family, who I cherish above
all other things on this earth, but
I get you as a consolation prize?
What makes you think I want to have
you now? You took away everything
from me. Everything!

DAVID

Beth, it was an accident!

BETH

Convenient accident, David! Oh, I was a fool to pity you, and think that we were saying good-bye when the whole time, you were taking me into your net.

DAVID

No, Beth, it isn't like that. I didn't know. I would never-

He approaches her.

BETH

Get away from me!

She turns around and decks him - hard! He flies across the small garage area, and lands in a heap. She drops to her knees, bawling into her hands. David rises up and looks at her, pitying. Ulrich walks over to her.

ULRICH

(to Tiberius)

You are pledged to that one. I will care for this one.

Tiberius nods. Ulrich lifts Beth up and carries her out. She continues crying. David watches, powerless to prevent it. Tiberius walks over to him.

TIBERIUS

We leave tomorrow.

DAVID

What about Beth?

TIBERIUS

She is in good hands.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. RASTEM HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

David sits up on the cot.

DAVID

I thought that I had forgotten about her, but instead, I find that my feelings remain. Is it possible to see her again?

TIBERIUS

That is not my decision. The Elewo keep their positions secret, just as we keep ours. Since the Tepish drove them out of Urufdiam 8 years ago, they do not stay in any one place for long. If Ulrich and I had not been meeting, you might have found yourself in a tight spot earlier.

DAVID

But surely you have some way of contacting them.

TIBERIUS

We have preset meeting times for which messengers of both disciplines will pass messages.

DAVID

Then I may pass a message to her by this route!

TIBERIUS

Now is not the time, David. The Tepish are up to something, and our next meeting will determine our course of action. I need you to be there.

DAVID

Me?

TIBERIUS

Yes.

DAVID

Why?

TIBERIUS

Ulrich and I think you may be able to help with this new Tepish problem.

DAVID

How?

TIBERIUS

If I tell you now, we wouldn't need the meeting.

EXT. ERIM - NIGHT

David and Tiberius walk into an unassuming run-down little shop on the Erim streets. The ancient sign reads Bart's Cart Parts.

INT. BART'S CART PARTS - NIGHT

Tiberius leads David to a far wall. Looking around, he steps on a particular spot and then presses a spot on the wall. The floor lowers and another section closes in over them.

INT. SECRET MEETING PLACE - NIGHT

David and Tiberius ride the little lift to its base. An Elewo Guard stands at the bottom. Tiberius approaches him.

TIBERIUS

Rastems Tiberius and David to meet with Ulrich.

The Elewo turns and walks down a corridor. Tiberius and David follow. The Elewo stops at the end of the corridor. Tiberius opens the door, and he and David step through.

INT. SECRET MEETING HALL - NIGHT

Inside the room is a large, round table. ULRICH sits in one position with another Elewo, JATU, on one side of him.

Jatu appears to be in his 30's with long black hair, deep blue eyes, and a slender face with an intelligent look about him. On his other side sits Beth, with her Elewo hood down. Like David, she has only aged one year in the last 10.

She looks up with surprise at David's entry with Tiberius. David pauses for a moment upon seeing her, but then continues behind Tiberius to sit next to another Rastem, KALTESH. David sits on the other side of Tiberius.

Ulrich stands.

ULRICH

Friends, welcome. We are gathered to answer the growing threat of the Tepish. As we are all well aware, they have taken over this former capital city of Erim, making no secret of the "gift of immortality" to the world. When this gift was not accepted as much as they wanted, they freely distributed the dreaded syringes to their people with rewards for new Fempiror. When people further resisted, they required a bounty of one new Fempiror per day under penalty of death. Even this punishment did not entice the people to turn against their fathers and transmutate others into us. They have a new plan. Jatu.

Ulrich sits. Jatu stands.

JATU

For several years, the Tepish have been conducting tests upon the original serum created by the alchemist Voivode Draculya. Careful mutations have been made to change the future Fempiror into a form and physiology different from ours as we have it now. Our information on this was very limited until we had one of our Elewo, Beth, enter the Fortress and take a sample of

(MORE)

JATU (CONT'D)

this new formula. The mutation from our own physiology to this new strain is severe. Our limited information notates that unlike the original, this mutation works much slower. The change begins as a dissipation of the victim's blood over a period of approximately 10 days. The victim's canine teeth elongate. Before the change is complete, the victim slips into unconsciousness. Our guess as to the intention is unconscionable.

DAVID

What is the intention?

Jatu looks over to David. Fear hides behind his eyes as if the next sentence fills him with the utmost of dread.

JATU

We believe the victim of this change will have no choice but to ingest blood to sustain himself.

Surprise registers with David, Kaltesh, and Tiberius. Ulrich and Beth remain stoic.

TIBERIUS

Is this true?

BETH

When I listened to the scientists relay the information to each other, they indicated that when the victim wakes from his coma, he will want a refill.

JATU

It is our surmise that the Tepish are working to create the people's vampire. Their goal will be much closer to the folklore than we are.

KALTESH

Do we know anything else?

ULRICH

No. But we aim to. We know the tests to be conducted at Kelirum, a small town not too far from Erim where there is a small populace of humans and Fempiror. Most of the Fempiror have been transmuted within the last 5 to 10 years, and the humans accept them to an extent. There may be more to it than that, so we need to send someone in.

DAVID

Who?

ULRICH

You...and Beth.

Both David and Beth look at Ulrich, surprised.

BETH

Why us?

TIBERIUS

The principle is sound enough. You are both well-trained in your disciplines. You both look very young still. And we need to gain these people's trust if we are to learn anything.

ULRICH

You are to be a couple who was attacked by Vampires...it is important you not let them know your extensive knowledge of our history or you will be suspect. You heard of this town and are seeking refuge. They will likely accept you without further question. It is also valuable that you both know each other already. It is nearly morning. You will leave for Kelirum tomorrow. That's it.

Everyone nods and rises. Beth immediately leaves through a far exit opposite where the Rastem entered. David watches her go. He turns to Tiberius.

TIBERIUS

David, return to our hideout. I must speak with Ulrich alone.

DAVID

Yes sir.

David starts to walk away, but then stops and turns back to Tiberius. Tiberius looks at him.

TIBERIUS

Is there something else?

David searches hard for words, but never finds any. He shakes his head, and then walks out of the room. Ulrich approaches Tiberius.

ULRICH

So, he is still in love with her.

TIBERIUS

It's funny how some things never die.

ULRICH

That it is. I hope this is a good idea.

TIBERIUS

I believe it is. For more reasons than we revealed here.

Ulrich nods.

EXT. ERIM OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

Ulrich and Tiberius stand aside as David and Beth sit inside Zechariah's Levi-Cart.

TIBERIUS

There is a cave due southeast of the town. It's within walking distance, but not so close that you can be seen. It is imperative that you walk into town and not take the Cart. We will take a report at midnight at that cave in three days.

David and Beth nod and jet off.

ULRICH

There they go.

TIBERIUS

Say your prayers.

ULRICH

More fervently than ever.

EXT. OPEN PLAINS - NIGHT

David drives the cart silently over the plains at high speed. Beth rides silently beside him. He spots the cave and pulls the cart into it. He and Beth emerge from the cave and start walking to a small town in the distance.

David looks over to her. She walks quietly beside him, not looking at him. He adjusts his pack and his sword peeks out from under his tunic. Beth spots it.

BETH

(unemotional)

Are you supposed to have that?

DAVID

I stole it from a dead vampire.

BETH

What?

DAVID

Tiberius said not to go unarmed, so he gave me a cover story to have it with me.

BETH

Hm. I don't require any such extensions, but that always has been the difference between the Rastem and the Elewo.

David looks at her surprised, but she looks away with a smirk.

DAVID

I can hold my own in hand-to-hand combat.

BETH

Really?

DAVID

Really.

BETH

You wanna test that?

DAVID

Bring it on.

They stand facing each other at arm's length. David puts down his gear. Beth watches him, as if bored with this challenge.

David makes the first swing. She blocks it, and tosses him to his back. He tries to get up, but before he can, she trips him up and holds her hand at his neck, just short of a fatal blow.

They stay in this position for a moment before she releases. He climbs to his feet.

BETH

He who makes the first blow places himself at an immediate disadvantage.

She walks towards the town. He brushes himself off and follows. They walk along in silence for some time. Finally, he turns to her.

DAVID

I didn't mean to, you know.

BETH

I know.

DAVID

I would never have-

BETH

I know.

They walk a little further. David looks over to her. Tears fill her eyes.

DAVID

I wish I could change-

BETH

No, it's not that.

DAVID

What is it?

BETH

I don't hate you. I really don't.
When I saw you the other night, I
was just so surprised, I-

She breaks off and looks away.

DAVID

You didn't know what to say?

She shakes her head.

DAVID

I was rather taken aback, too.

BETH

It's just that I got flooded with
all of these memories and things I
thought I'd forgotten all about.
Stuff I had to leave behind.
Everything. Hopes and regrets alike.

DAVID

What do you regret?

BETH

A lot of things.

DAVID

Like?

BETH

Children. We were supposed to have children by now. I was supposed to have been a mother to however many a woman can get in 10 years. Where are my children? Where is my family? Where is the life I was supposed to get out of life? Nowhere. I didn't even get to say good-bye to the family I had. They won't ever know what happened to me.

DAVID

Abraham will say I kidnapped you.

BETH

Probably. I heard about that.

DAVID

You did?

BETH

Ulrich and Tiberius keep well in touch. I wonder how he's doing.

DAVID

He probably married Mary Dillinger, like he said.

BETH

Poor Abraham. He loved me, you know.

DAVID

I know.

They walk along in silence towards the small town.

INT. TEPISH TEST FACILITY - NIGHT

The test subject from the fortress lies on a table in a darkened room. Forms stand alongside the table.

The subject's eyes pop open. With a deep gasp, he sits up. His eyes dart around the room. A VOICE speaks from the person beside the table. This individual will be referred to as Voice until his face is revealed.

VOICE

How do you feel?

SUBJECT

Hungry.

VOICE

What would you like?

SUBJECT

I don't know.

The voice raises an arm and gives a "come here" gesture. Two Fempiror carry in a struggling human and toss him on the ground. He looks up at the voice and the Subject.

VOICE

Will this help you?

The Subject smiles wide and toothfully. Enormous, elongated canines dominate the visage. The Subject nods.

VOICE

Then he is yours.

The Subject jumps down and grabs the Human. He sinks his canines into the Human's neck. The Human screams. The Subject withdraws his canines and sucks on the Human's neck.

The Fempiror who brought in the Human shrink back in horror.

FEMPIROR

What have we done?

VOICE

What has been asked of us. We shall continue to observe. Vladimir expects a report soon.

The Human passes out. The Subject finishes his "meal" and tosses the human down, dead. Blood trickles down his chin.

EXT. KELİRUM - NIGHT

David and Beth approach the town, which is alive with nightlife. Instead of the lighting system in older Fempiror areas, the town is lit by fire. The people of Kelirum look up at their approach, wary.

BETH

(whispers)

Put your arm around me.

DAVID

What?

BETH

We're supposed to be a couple.

David puts his arm around Beth as they enter. A man approaches them. This is OBADIAH. He appears to be around 40 with disheveled hair and a worried look. His clothing, by contrast, appears relatively new.

From his belt he produces a rod about a foot long with a sliding switch on its side.

Walking outside the lit area of the town, he slides down the switch, and a spark ignites a flame atop it, like an oversized lighter. This is simply called a SELF-LIGHTING TORCH.

David and Beth pay it little mind, as it seems to be a commonplace item.

OBADIAH

Hold there. Who are you? We don't get many strangers here.

DAVID

My name is David. This is my wife, Elizabeth. We heard we could find refuge here.

OBADIAH

Refuge from what?

DAVID

We were attacked by a vampire and carried to a city over there. They told us terrible things and we found out they're true.

OBADIAH

What kinds of things?

DAVID

Please, sir, we cannot go home. Our friends and family will turn against us and kill us.

OBADIAH

Why would they do that?

DAVID

Because we got changed into vampires. We cannot survive in the daylight. We have been persecuted so many times.

BETH

Sir, we heard of your refuge for lost souls and came to seek your help.

Obadiah regards them suspiciously.

OBADIAH

Very well. I am Obadiah Massura, the mayor of the night-dwellers here in Kelirum. The normal people are mayored by Paul Stalik. They have given us amnesty here and do not persecute. These are a rare people.

DAVID

Thank you, sir.

He signals to a man standing near him, HARRISON. He is a plain young man with brown hair and brown eyes, dressed in drab clothing.

OBADIAH

Harrison, here, will help you find a place to rest until proper quarters may be found.

DAVID

Thank you, sir.

BETH

Thank you.

Harrison leads them away. Obadiah gestures to another Fempiror, FRINYAR. Frinyar has a serious look about him with cropped brown hair and blue eyes. He is dressed sharply but simply.

OBADIAH

Watch them, Frinyar. I want to know everything. What they do, where they go, what they say. Understand?

FRINYAR

Yes, sir.

EXT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE - NIGHT

Harrison leads David and Beth to a halfway house situated near the outskirts of Kelirum.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE - NIGHT

Harrison leads them to the front desk where FIONA WISTRA awaits. She appears to be around 64, an older woman with grey hair and a kindly, grandmotherish look about her. The house is lit by self-lighting torches similar to Obadiah's.

FIONA

Good evening, Harrison. New arrivals?

HARRISON

Yes. Straight from Erim.

FIONA

Oh, poor things. So young too. I can take solace in my life after the change, but these young ones make me sad.

DAVID

How many young ones have there been?

FIONA

Oh, dozens. Goodness, we have grown. Those Erim people certainly stay busy. It is a wonder they haven't rooted us out yet.

BETH

Why don't they?

FIONA

To be honest, dearie, I don't know. Maybe, we're just not that big a threat to them, and they got their way with us. I figure, why should they even bother?

DAVID

True.

Fiona pulls a key off a board behind her and hands it to David.

FIONA

Here you go, dearie. It's a shame, really.

DAVID

What's a shame?

FIONA

You two would have made some beautiful children.

Beth looks at Fiona sadly for a moment. Tears fill her eyes. She looks away and turns to walk up the stairs. David watches her.

FIONA

Forgive me. I didn't mean to upset her.

DAVID

Don't worry. It's just all so new for us.

David follows her up the stairs. He meets Beth at the top. Her eyes are red and shot.

DAVID

What's wrong?

BETH

Let's just find our room.

DAVID

Very well.

David checks the key tag and finds their room. He unlocks the door and opens it for Beth to enter first. He follows.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 202 - NIGHT

The room is stark. Windowless, a bed and a chamber pot make up the sparse furnishings along with an unlit self-lighting torch on the wall.

Beth sits on the bed, her head hung low. David walks over to the torch and slides the rod on the side downwards. The flame ignites. He turns to Beth.

BETH

I don't know what's wrong with me. I've survived the last 10 years without so much as a tear for what I've lost. Now, I'm just a mess.

DAVID

Maybe you're finally facing what you've refused to face all this time.

BETH

Maybe I am. David, why did you
have to come back into my life?

DAVID

Neither one of us asked for this,
but-

David turns from her.

BETH

What?

DAVID

Nothing.

David thinks for a moment.

DAVID

How are we going to handle the
sleeping arrangements? We're
supposed to appear married, so
there may be a respectable way to-

He turns to the bed and notices Beth has fallen asleep. He
removes her shoes and moves her head to the pillow. He wraps her
in the blanket covering the bed by just lifting his side over
her.

He slides the switch on the torch back up, which extinguishes
the flame. He lies down next to her, and goes to sleep.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Frinyar peeps through the keyhole at the sleeping pair.
Satisfied, he walks down the stairs and past Fiona. Fiona spots
him as he leaves.

FIONA

You're not going to trouble the
poor dears, are you, Frinyar?

FRINYAR

I'm on orders of Obadiah, Fiona.

FIONA

You don't think they're the ones
he warned us about, do you?

FRINYAR

That's what we have to find out.

Frinyar walks outside.

EXT. KELİRUM - NIGHT

Daybreak threatens the horizon. Frinyar walks down the street in Kelirum. He enters the TOWN HALL, a large building with few windows.

INT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

The town hall is lit using the Fempiror lighting system used in Erim. Frinyar walks through a short hallway. He enters a room, closing the door behind him.

INT. OBADIAH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Frinyar walks in and gives a swift bow to Obadiah, who sits behind a desk.

FRINYAR

They entered the halfway house and
are now asleep.

OBADIAH

Anything out of the ordinary?

FRINYAR

No sir. When I reached their room,
she had already fallen asleep. He
covered her and lay down himself.

OBADIAH

Thank you, Frinyar.

Frinyar leaves. Obadiah gets up and walks out as well.

INT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Obadiah walks further down the hallway from his office. He unlocks a door at the end of the hallway and enters.

INT. SECRET HALLS - NIGHT

Obadiah walks around a short hallway. He reaches another door and enters.

INT. TEPISH TEST FACILITY ANTEROOM - NIGHT

Obadiah walks up behind the Voice. The Voice watches the Test Subject in the other room. A large window in the upper side of the room faces east. The sun is beginning to peek over the horizon.

VOICE

Watch, Obadiah. We must test our new brother's resilience to the sun.

OBADIAH

Is it safe to stand here?

VOICE

Be assured, I specially prepared this window to block the part of the sun that hurts us. I like to stand here often and watch the sun rise. I cannot feel its warmth, but I can at least see its brilliance.

The sun comes over the horizon and fills the room with light. The Subject stands well within its rays and-

-nothing happens!

OBADIAH

Amazing!

VOICE

Indeed. Our new friend can go where we cannot. This increases his usefulness.

(turning to Obadiah,
the sun shadowing him)

You have something to report?

OBADIAH

Only that last night, we received more refugees from Erim, sir.

VOICE

Well done. What are their names?

OBADIAH

Husband and wife, sir. Their names are David and Elizabeth.

VOICE

Indeed?

OBADIAH

Is there a problem sir?

VOICE

Are you having them watched?

OBADIAH

Of course.

VOICE

Well done. I want a thorough report of every movement they make.

OBADIAH

Yes, sir.

Obadiah leaves the room. The Voice turns back to the Subject, bathing in the sunlight.

VOICE

David and Beth. How interesting.

EXT. ERIM - NIGHT

A Rastem stands in the shadows watching a specific point on the building on the far side. As he watches, a figure sidles onto the side of the far building, its head facing the direction of the Rastem.

The Rastem looks around quickly and then runs across the street, sidling up against the wall.

RASTEM

What do you have?

The figure looks up at him and smiles. The Rastem staggers back.

RASTEM

Tepish!

TEPISH

Take this to your leader!

The Tepish runs the Rastem through. The Tepish stuffs a paper in the Rastem's pocket and then walks away.

An Elewo emerges from a nearby alley. Seeing the Rastem, he runs to him. The Elewo looks both directions, and then slips back into the shadows.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 202 - SUNSET

David awakens. He turns and Beth is not next to him. He sits up and she is sitting on the floor at the foot of the bed. She looks sad.

DAVID

Beth?

BETH

Hi.

DAVID

Are you well?

BETH

Thank you for tucking me in. Forgive me for passing out on you.

DAVID

Don't worry about it.

BETH

I'm also sorry I've been such a mess since we started. You must have a horrible opinion of my abilities.

DAVID

No, I don't. You're finally going through what I did so long ago. I was forced to accept it through a lot of trials.

BETH

I just blocked it out. Refused to acknowledge it at all.

DAVID

Do you still hate me?

She stops and looks at him. She looks troubled.

BETH

No. I never did. I know more now than I did then. I know enough to realize that we made love and you didn't know it would do this to me.

DAVID

Can I do anything to help you?

Beth thinks for a long time.

BETH

Yes.

DAVID

Anything.

BETH

Take me to Hauginstown.

David shakes his head.

DAVID

The most poignant lesson I learned
was not to ever go back.

BETH

But you did go back. You went back
so you could say good-bye to me. I
need the same thing. I need to say
good-bye to my family. I need to
tell them I'm okay and alive, but
that I can't come back. They'll
think I'm some kind of a ghost,
since I haven't even aged the last
10 years.

Beth gazes off into the distance.

DAVID

I have some reservations about this.

BETH

Do you love me?

DAVID

What?

Beth looks him in the eyes.

BETH

Do you love me?

DAVID

Yes.

BETH

Then, please do this for me, so I
can move onto this crazy life we're
stuck in.

DAVID

When?

BETH

As soon as possible. We have the
Levi-cart. We can be there and back
again in one evening.

DAVID

We have to report to Tiberius and Ulrich in two days.

BETH

We have no guarantees of keeping the Levi-cart past then. They might tell us to come on back. We have to do it before then.

DAVID

We should at least look around.

BETH

David, I want to do this now.

David looks into her pleading eyes. He ponders it for a long moment.

DAVID

Then we'll go.

Beth breathes a sigh of relief.

BETH

Thank you.

David stands.

DAVID

Let's go.

INT. HALLWAY, HOUSE LOBBY - NIGHT

David and Beth approach Fiona at the front desk.

DAVID

Fiona, we were just wondering about nearby towns and such. What's the nearest town to here?

FIONA

Why would you be wanting to go elsewhere?

DAVID

Well, I figure we're stuck like this for a long time now, so we might as well see what's around here. I like to know the lay of the land.

FIONA

Well, I think the closest is Foreldim off east aways, but making a round trip on foot will take you the better part of the night. You'll be running to make it back here before sundown.

DAVID

Oh, we're just checking it all out. We might not even get that far. What do you think, Hon?

BETH

Well, we've nothing better to do, so let's go.

FIONA

Might you want to know more about Kelïrum first?

DAVID

We can do that tomorrow. We want to walk about today. Bye!

FIONA

As you wish. Good-bye now.

EXT. KELÏRUM - NIGHT

David and Beth walk very quickly out of town towards the Levi-Cart.

DAVID

I think it's suspicious of us to leave the first day after arriving.

BETH

You came up with a good cover story,
I think.

DAVID

It's not that good, really, but
let's hope it holds.

Frinyar watches them walk away from the town. Obadiah comes up behind them.

OBADIAH

Where are they going?

FRINYAR

Fiona said Foreldim.

OBADIAH

(confused)

What? Which way is Foreldim.

Frinyar points a direction different from where David and Beth are going.

OBADIAH

That's what I thought.

FRINYAR

Maybe they're lost.

OBADIAH

If they were here longer, I would
think they're spies, but they
didn't go anywhere.

Frinyar nods.

OBADIAH

Well, watch for their return.
Inform me immediately.

Frinyar nods.

INT. RASTEM HEADQUARTERS, ERIM - NIGHT

Tiberius paces anxiously. KALTESH enters. He now appears 38, a well-built man with deep blue eyes and long brown hair tied back in a pony tail. He has sharp eyes and now sports a scruffy beard.

KALTESH

Tiberius, we found him.

TIBERIUS

Where?

KALTESH

He had been run through. We found this message on him.

Tiberius takes the note from Kaltesh.

TIBERIUS

(reading, in Felletterusk)

"Sufki nar selad sil stäf."

(repeats in English)

"Your days are numbered."

KALTESH

Should we take it seriously?

TIBERIUS

We shall take our brother's death seriously. Did you make contact with the Elewo?

KALTESH

Yes, sir. He was watching over the body. He knew we would come for it.

TIBERIUS

Of course. What did he say?

KALTESH

They've been forced to relocate. Their hideout was overrun.

TIBERIUS

Ours is likely already compromised. Prepare to move.

EXT. HAUGINSTOWN OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

David and Beth zoom towards Hauginstown in the Levi-Cart. The provincial little town has not changed at all in the last 10 years. David stops in front of the mound that was Zechariah's House.

BETH

What's this place?

DAVID

It belonged to Zechariah. He helped me in the beginning.

BETH

Ulrich told me about him. He was betrayed.

DAVID

Yes. We can leave the cart here. It's closer than the cave.

David feels over the garage mound. He locates the handle, and like clockwork, the door opens.

BETH

How did you know about that?

DAVID

It's where this Levi-cart came from.

BETH

You've had this the whole time?

DAVID

Yes.

Beth gets out of the cart. Together they push it into the mound. David shuts off the power and the cart settles to the ground. David closes the mound.

DAVID

Let's go.

The two set off towards Hauginstown, not too far off.

EXT. HAUGINSTOWN TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

The pair walks through the town square. The statue still stands over the grassy area amongst the little shops and houses. A NIGHT WATCHMAN makes his rounds, walking silently in the moonlight.

DAVID

(nostalgically)

This is strange.

BETH

I know. All my life I assumed I would grow up, grow old, and die in this little town.

DAVID

We've probably seen more in the last 10 years than everyone in this town has seen in their entire lives.

BETH

I'll bet you're right.

They continue through the square and in the direction of Beth's house.

Once they reach Beth's house, she stands before it for a moment. She looks over the house.

DAVID

What's wrong?

BETH

I've changed so much. As I look at the house where I grew up, I know in my heart that I can't come back to this.

DAVID

Do you want to go in?

BETH

Yes. I still have to say good-bye.
Despite what I just learned in my
soul, it won't be any easier.

DAVID

I'll wait for you outside.

BETH

I'll find you.

Beth walks around the side of the house to a window. She opens it and climbs in.

INT. CARPENTER HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Beth stands beside her sleeping PARENTS. Her father's hair has turned almost completely white. Her mother's face is streaked with lines beyond her age.

Beth sighs as she looks upon them.

BETH

What can I say to you? I don't
want to cause you any more
pain than you must have
experienced already. And yet,
some selfish part of me needs
to tell you good-bye. To tell
you that I'm doing well. To
tell you that I'm alive.

Her father stirs, restless, but doesn't awaken. Beth walks around the bed to her mother and kneels beside her.

BETH

My dearest mother, I can see
how my loss has hurt you.
Don't mourn for me any longer.
Don't shed another tear. You
both know how much I love you,
and I will miss you forever.
But don't worry any more.

Beth gently kisses her mother on the cheek. A tear falls from her mother's eye. A smile drifts across her sleeping face.

Beth wipes a tear from her own eye and walks to the window. She looks at her parents one last time. Her father stirs again.

He looks over to see her standing next to the window, the moonlight showing her face clearly.

BETH'S FATHER

Beth?

BETH

Go to sleep, father. When you wake up tomorrow, be happy again. Smile again. Let the town hear your laughter once more. I'm sure they'd missed it these past years. I know I have.

She walks over to him and kisses him on the cheek.

BETH

This is a very good dream.

Her father watches her walk to the window and climb out. Tears run out of his eyes. He lays his head on his pillow.

Beth's mother stirs and looks at him.

BETH'S MOTHER

Are you ok?

BETH'S FATHER

Yes. Everything's fine now.

She cuddles up to him.

BETH'S MOTHER

Yes. Yes, is.

EXT. HAUGINSTOWN TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

David stands beside a tree. He watches the night watchman makes his round around the square. David squints his eyes, staring at the watchman, as if he recognizes him. David's eyes grow wide. He hides behind the tree to ensure he isn't seen.

Beth comes up behind him, wiping her eyes.

DAVID
How are you feeling?

BETH
Better. It was awkward. I didn't know what to say. They didn't either. I don't know if this helped or not.

DAVID
I'm sure it did.

David holds out his arm, and Beth sidles next to him. He kisses her head as she rests it on his shoulder. David looks up. The night watchman comes closer to them.

BETH
David-

David puts his hand over her mouth.

DAVID
Sh.

BETH
(whispers)
What is it?

DAVID
One of my brothers. We need to get out of here.

BETH
Why?

DAVID

I don't know how it would affect
him to see us.

David's brother, MARK TAYLOR, who resembles David in general appearance and around 31 in age, stops and cranes his head around, as if he heard something.

David looks around the tree. Mark stands only a short distance away, looking directly at him! David leans back against the tree.

DAVID

(whispers)

We've got to get out of here!

BETH

There's no where to go!

Mark whips around the tree - a club raised in defense.

MARK

Who are you?

David and Beth turn to him, surprised. Mark looks at them for a moment, and then relaxes.

MARK

Oh, David. Beth. You scared me.
What are you doing out so late?
You know the rules. Go on home!

DAVID

Yes. Pardon us.

BETH

Pardon.

David and Beth run past him and out of town. Mark shakes his head and continues his watch.

After a few steps, he stops. His eyes grow wide. His mouth opens. He whips his head around to look after them.

David and Beth disappear into the shadows beyond the town square.

EXT. ZECHARIAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

David and Beth reach Zechariah's house. David looks behind them.

DAVID

I sure hope he thinks we're ghosts
or a dream or something.

BETH

I'm sure he'll be fine.

Beth walks over to the mound, but David stops.

BETH

What is it?

DAVID

I want to go inside for a moment.

BETH

As you wish.

INT. ZECHARIAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

David presses the light button. A low whir sounds and a moment later, the lights come on. The place is exactly how Zechariah left it, but covered under a layer of dust. David looks around. Beth follows him.

BETH

This is where he lived?

DAVID

For quite some time, as I
understand it.

David walks over to the room he occupied for a short time 10 years earlier. Beth follows.

DAVID

This is where I woke up. Zechariah
was as consoling as he could be,
but I was just hideous to him. With
everything I put him through, he
still cared. He stood by me.

BETH

It was his job.

DAVID

I know.

Beth walks through the living area down the hall to the sanctuary with the cross on the table. Beth touches it gently and looks to the hole in the ceiling where she can see the stars.

BETH

I want to thank you for bringing me back.

DAVID

I owed it to you. It's my fault you're like this.

BETH

We share the fault. You didn't know, and I didn't care.

DAVID

Do you regret it?

BETH

Not the act. I loved you. I thought I was never going to see you again.

DAVID

Me, too.

BETH

But here we are.

She turns to David.

BETH

Together again.

DAVID

Would they approve of a Rastem and Elewo being together?

BETH

Do you want to?

DAVID

We're going to live a long time.
Why do it alone?

He takes her hands in his. The cross is visible between them,
like a priest overseeing the ceremony.

BETH

I promised once that I would
stand beside you for all
eternity.

DAVID

We have an eternity ahead of us.
Would you take that vow again?

BETH

Would you promise to love me
beyond all other promises and
all reason?

DAVID

Beyond the vow of the Rastem.

BETH

And the vow of the Elewo.

DAVID

Forsaking all others.

BETH

Cleaving one to another.

DAVID

What was formally two.

BETH

Will now be made one.

DAVID

From now until forever.

BETH

Till death do we part.

DAVID

Till death do we part.

They wrap their arms around each other and kiss passionately.

INT. TEPISH TEST FACILITY - NIGHT

Vladimir walks around the Subject who sits in his chair watching them.

VLADIMIR

You've done well.

VOICE

Thank you, Vladimir.

VLADIMIR

Your insight broke the code that eluded our poor trapped brains for so long.

VOICE

I have done what I could to serve the Tepish.

VLADIMIR

We have two more tests to try.

VOICE

Oh?

VLADIMIR

Yes. Guard!

A Guard runs over to Vladimir. Vladimir picks up an empty nilrof. He stabs it into the guard's neck and withdraws some blood. The guard winces.

VLADIMIR

Let us see which is stronger.
Yours or Voivode's.

He injects the guard's blood into the Subject. The Subject winces but shakes it off. Vladimir stands back, impressed.

VLADIMIR

Amazing! You have defeated the original serum.

VOICE

Thank you. What is your other test?

Vladimir smiles. He uses the same syringe to withdraw blood from the Subject and injects it into the guard.

VOICE

What are you doing?!

VLADIMIR

Initiating this lucky Tepish into the future.

The Guard falls to his knees. He holds his neck, hyperventilating.

VOICE

Was that test authorized?

Vladimir grabs the shirt of the Voice.

VLADIMIR

Everything I do is authorized, boy. Do not forget to remember that.

He pushes the Voice away. They both turn back to the guard. He looks up at them, sweat pouring down his face.

As his mouth stands open, his canine teeth elongate. His face drains of color as his blood quickly dissolves. He screams and collapses on the ground.

VLADIMIR

Impressive. 10 days in humans, but
10 seconds in Fempiror. Watch him.
I will return with a verdict in 2
days. I believe we'll begin
duplicating this soon until we have
enough actual Mutations to not need
the duplication process anymore.

VOICE

How many are there now?

VLADIMIR

With your subject here, about a
dozen.

VOICE

A dozen?

VLADIMIR

The group from the latest batch
have all recovered after their 3-day
coma, and stand ready. Keep up the
good work.

Vladimir leaves with a supply of the Mutation serum.

VOICE

(to himself)

What have I done?

EXT. KELİRUM - NIGHT

Frinyar sits near the outskirts of town, watching the horizon
where David and Beth had disappeared. He sits up suddenly. His
eyes narrow.

Walking hand in hand towards the town are David and Beth. They
look very content and happy. They wave at Frinyar as they enter.

DAVID

Evening.

Frinyar nods as they enter, looking perplexed.

BETH

How much time do we have left tonight?

DAVID

Only a couple of hours. That should be enough to check out the town and gather an idea as to what might be happening. Thoughts as to a starting place?

Beth nods to the distant Town Hall.

BETH

That looks like the Town Hall of the city. We could go there. Most Halls are open to the public.

DAVID

Sounds good. Being new, I guess such a move would be natural.

BETH

Thoughts on our friend?

DAVID

The one who's followed us since we got here? We'll be subtle and make sure our lock is plugged tonight.

Beth laughs. They continue walking towards Town Hall.

DAVID

Let's admire the architecture first.

BETH

Walk around it?

DAVID

Exactly.

Obadiah leaves the Town Hall. David and Beth wave at him as they pass. Frinyar comes up beside him.

OBADIAH
What are they doing?

FRINYAR
Walking.

OBADIAH
What are they talking about?

FRINYAR
I can't get close enough to find out.

OBADIAH
Don't allow them to walk around the building. Bring them to me.

FRINYAR
What reason should I give?

OBADIAH
Routine questions.

FRINYAR
Yes sir.

David and Beth walk around one side of the building. They spot a large window on the side.

DAVID
That's odd.

BETH
Why would a Fempiror building have such a window?

DAVID
Let's look in.

They walk towards the window. When they get close enough, the Subject throws himself against the glass and snarls at them. His pointed teeth are well defined. They jump back.

DAVID
What is that?

Beth peers at it. Frinyar comes up behind them.

FRINYAR

Excuse me.

They whip around.

DAVID

Yes?

FRINYAR

Mayor Obadiah wishes to see you.

DAVID

Sure. What's going on?

FRINYAR

Just some routine questions we ask of everyone who comes here. Won't take long. We just missed you before you left after sunset.

DAVID

Very well.

David and Beth follow him. Beth leans over to David.

BETH

Good timing.

DAVID

That's what I thought.

Behind them, the Subject pounds the glass in frustration. A small crack appears. The Subject looks at it and smiles.

INT. OBADIAH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Obadiah sits behind his desk, waiting. The door opens and Frinyar escorts David and Beth into his office. Obadiah stands to greet them.

OBADIAH

Welcome to Kelirum. I ask your pardon for being remiss in welcoming you properly.

DAVID

Think nothing of it.

OBADIAH

Sit, please.

BETH

Thank you.

David and Beth sit opposite Obadiah. Frinyar stands at the back of the room.

OBADIAH

So. When were you two attacked?
What happened?

DAVID

We were recently married and spending some personal time together before going to work and life. We were out late, so decided to stay the night in a cave. But there was something in there with us. It attacked me first. Beth was screaming; I heard her, but I couldn't do anything.

BETH

He had this pointed thing that he stuck in our necks. It was cold.

DAVID

When we came to, we were in this huge building. I've never seen anything so big before. Anyway, they gave us these things they called, uh...

BETH

Neal-ruff?

OBADIAH

Nilrof?

DAVID

That's it. They gave us each one of those and said to draw our own blood and inject it into other regular people. They said we had to bring them one a day.

OBADIAH

That's the Erim quota.

BETH

We couldn't do it.

DAVID

Once they let us go, we threw those horrible nilrofs away and have been hiding out during the days.

OBADIAH

How did you find your way to us?

BETH

We had stayed over one night at an inn on the edge of that city. What was it?

DAVID

Erim, I think.

OBADIAH

Yes, go on.

BETH

Yes, the guy behind the counter told us about this town that had a bunch of new people like us, who threw away their nilrofs and ran away.

OBADIAH

Interesting.

DAVID

He pointed the way to go and here we are.

OBADIAH

Quite the harrowing adventure.

BETH

It was.

On the wall a plate slides open revealing a small hole.

INT. OFFICE NEXT TO OBADIAH'S - NIGHT

The Voice peeps through the hole at David and Beth.

OBADIAH (O.S.)

I notice you carry a sword. How did come by this?

DAVID (O.S.)

We were in Erim the other night and witnessed a fight between a group of soldiers from the big building and two other groups. I took the sword for my own protection from the carnage.

OBADIAH (O.S.)

Do you know how to use it?

DAVID (O.S.)

Not yet, but I am hoping for some initial intimidation.

The door slides shut.

INT. OBADIAH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Obadiah nods, satisfied.

OBADIAH

Well, your story seems true enough.
But let me assure you your sword
will not be necessary as long as
you're here.

DAVID

Can I at least keep it?

OBADIAH

You cannot carry it through town.
We prohibit any weapons in our
streets. We are a peace-loving
people and do not wish to get
involved in any kind of disputes.
There is some kind of war going on
between factions of the older
night-dwellers. The Tepish are the
ruling faction and the others seek
to unseat them. It is a pathetic
struggle that goes back centuries.
They refuse to agree, and we, the
little people, suffer for it. It is
from this little invisible war of
theirs that you and me and everyone
in this town were changed. We will
have no part of it.

DAVID

That's fine. I'm no fighter.

Obadiah smiles at him.

OBADIAH

Good. I will present you to our
leader and he will want to meet
you tomorrow.

BETH

Oh, you aren't in charge?

OBADIAH

No. I am the mayor, but I report
to a higher authority as well.

DAVID

Who is he?

OBADIAH

If he wishes to tell you his name,
he will do so. Frinyar will help
you back to your room.

BETH

Thank you.

DAVID

Nice meeting you.

OBADIAH

You too. Enjoy your stay here in
Kelirum.

DAVID

Thank you.

David and Beth leave the office. Frinyar follows. A door opens
to the side office. The Voice steps through.

VOICE

I saw what I needed to see.

OBADIAH

What is your determination?

VOICE

They are spies. He did not take the
sword; it is his. He is a skilled
Rastem warrior. His wife, if she
really is, is an Elewo, and a
formidable one. I will see them
tomorrow, and they will not leave.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 202 - NIGHT

Frinyar holds the door open for David and Beth to enter. He
pulls it closed behind them. They look at each for a moment.
David holds a finger to his mouth. He stands to one side of the
door. He kneels down and looks under the door.

Underneath, he sees Frinyar's knees on the floor as if Frinyar is looking through the keyhole. David points to the keyhole.

DAVID
(mouthed)
He's watching us through the
keyhole.

Beth smiles and shakes her head. David takes his bag and hangs it on the doorknob, blocking the hole.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Frinyar jerks away from the keyhole. He walks to the room next door and enters.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 202 - NIGHT

David gets up.

DAVID
He's not there now, but he walked
to the room over here.

David indicates the wall of the room the Frinyar entered. Beth points out a small hole in the wall.

BETH
This looks interesting.

DAVID
It does.

David puts his ear to the wall.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 204 - NIGHT

The room is dark. Frinyar walks over to the wall and slides a panel back. He peeps through it. Through the hole, his prey are not seen.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 202 - NIGHT

David smiles and looks at Beth.

DAVID
(mouthed)
He slid back a panel.

BETH
(mouthed)
Not very original, are they?

David smiles and shakes his head. He moves in front of the peephole and listens again.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 204 - NIGHT

Frinyar jerks back again. He slides the panel shut and stays in the room, listening.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 202 - NIGHT

David smiles. He gestures for Beth to sit with him on the bed. She follows him and leans in close to him.

DAVID
(low)
He's still over there, but he closed the panel. I guess they just want to listen to us.

BETH
How long do you think he'll stay there?

DAVID
He laid on the bed over there, so he'll probably rest when he thinks we're asleep.

BETH
Who says we're going to sleep?

DAVID

Good point.

They kiss and lay down.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 204 - NIGHT

Frinyar lies back on the bed in the next room. He sighs, rolling his eyes as he places his hands behind his head. He closes his eyes.

EXT. ERIM - DAY

A group of 20 black clad Rastem creep through the sparsely populated daytime streets of Erim, wearing day-travel cloaks, thick heavy cloaks and gloves that completely protect the wearer from the sun.

Tiberius leads. He reaches the edge of a building and looks around, careful to keep his face shadowed in the hood.

Up the road a ways, a group of guards stand, watching the street. They look ready for anything, but do not wear day-travel cloaks. Tiberius looks puzzled.

TIBERIUS

Kaltesh.

Kaltesh moves up to him.

TIBERIUS

What do you make of this?

Kaltesh looks around the corner at the waiting guards.

KALTESH

Perhaps, it is some kind of blocker on the skin.

TIBERIUS

Maybe. Or maybe there is more to this Tepish mutation than we initially believed.

KALTESH

Resilience to sunlight?

TIBERIUS

Maybe so. We cannot go this way. We have to find another way around. Fall back.

Tiberius moves past the Rastem against the wall.

TIBERIUS

Everyone, we're taking a different path. This way is guarded and we cannot risk a battle during the day and losing our cloaks.

The Rastem nod assent and follow him.

TIBERIUS

Yori, recommendations.

YORI, now appearing 28, still keeps her long blonde hair tied up in a tight bun and her hazel eyes remain as sharp as ever. Her Rastem uniform is altered to fit her feminine form. She turns to Tiberius.

YORI

We can double back and go further west to try and avoid them. Otherwise, we'll need to find another hideout or go back to our former one.

TIBERIUS

We can't go back. We'll hole up somewhere if we have to, but we can't go back.

YORI

Very well.

TIBERIUS

Let's go.

The Rastem start traveling away from the road where the guards await.

The Tepish guards are the Vampire-like Mutations. Vladimir in a day-travel cloak stands over them.

VLADIMIR

Mutations! Your prey travels in daylight. Appease your hunger and track them down. If they give you trouble, removing the cloak will subdue them. Be gone!

The Mutations run through Erim, down side streets, hunting for their prey.

The Rastem travel slow. One of them runs up to Tiberius.

This is BOLTASH, a larger man appearing to be around 32 with a frownset mouth, large moustache, and tousled black hair that looks like he tries to keep cut short and serious, observant, brown eyes.

BOLTASH

Tiberius!

TIBERIUS

What is it?

BOLTASH

Something passed the alley back there. It is moving quickly.

TIBERIUS

Did you see it?

BOLTASH

Only a glimpse.

TIBERIUS

What was it?

BOLTASH

I don't know.

TIBERIUS

We have to move. Pass the word. Hold your cloaks. We're going to have to run.

Boltash runs along the Rastem, passing along the word. Tiberius takes off at a sprint, one hand grasping his hood. The others quickly follow suit.

They cut back north through an alleyway. Two streets away and across a wide-open space is an open awning.

6 Mutations settle in behind them. As Tiberius runs, his cloak flips away from his wrist. Burns develop on his exposed skin. He pulls the sleeve back down and never misses a step.

They run across one street. One of the Mutations catches a Rastem from the rear and drags him to the ground. The Rastem tries to fight back but the Mutation pulls back his hood.

As the sun burns the flesh on his head, the Mutation bites his neck and takes what he can from the Rastem.

TIBERIUS

Almost there!

The Rastem cross the second street, but as they approach the door. The other 5 Mutations cut them off. One of them pounces on Kaltesh. Kaltesh throws him off but another takes him from behind and drops his hood.

Before he can bite, Tiberius kicks the Mutation off and restores Kaltesh's hood. His face is burned, but he's ok.

TIBERIUS

Into the doorway! Out of the sun!

The Mutations work to block the doorway, and the ones from behind work to cut the Rastem down.

Tiberius and others draw their swords and slice at the Mutations, but they are very quick and continue to pull down the hoods of the Rastem, besting several of them for meals.

The Rastem attempt to rescue their comrades, but other Mutations protect their brethren. As the Rastem fall, more Mutations are available to tackle the diminishing numbers.

Half the Rastem are able to reach the safety of the awning, and be out of the sun.

The Rastem stand at battle ready under the awning as the Mutations finish their meals and collect in the sun.

The Rastem lower their hoods. Several are burned badly in the face. Kaltesh is especially bad, but he stands ready.

KALTESH

What do we do, Tiberius?

TIBERIUS

Retreat into the church. We will try to hold our own as they enter.

The Rastem slowly back into the church and close the heavy doors behind them.

INT. ERIM CHURCH - DAY

The Rastem bolt the door and go into the sanctuary. Five others stand with Tiberius, Yori, Kaltesh, and Boltash.

YORI

That won't hold them.

TIBERIUS

No, but it'll take a few moments for them to bust it down. Do we hold any advantages in here.

KALTESH

Not even a narrow entry.

TIBERIUS

This may be it for us, then. Is there a rear exit?

YORI

I'll check. Tyran, Boltash, come with me!

Yori runs off with TYRAN (a young man who looks to be around 16 with a shock of red hair, green eyes, and a timid look about him) and Boltash towards the front of the sanctuary, carefully avoiding the light streaming in through the stained glass windows.

Silence.

KALTESH

Why aren't they doing anything?

TIBERIUS

My fear is, "what are they doing?"

A soft patter sounds through the sanctuary.

FALTA

What is that?

Tiberius looks very worried. His eyes gaze upward. His mouth drops open.

TIBERIUS

God in Heaven...

Kaltesh and the others look up. THE MUTATIONS ARE SCURRYING UPSIDE DOWN ON THE CEILING!

KALTESH

What devilry is this?

TIBERIUS

Stand ready!

The Mutations drop to the floor. One Mutation ducks a swing from Rastem 1 and then bats him out one of the windows, shattering it as the Rastem exits. The Mutation follows quickly after; a scream ensues from outside.

The 5 remaining Rastem desperately swing at the Mutations with their swords, but they are remarkably fast and avoid every blow. At 10 to 5, the Rastem are overwhelmed.

Mutations kick Rastems 2 & 3 into the sunbeams and bite them as they burn. The others are unable to help their fallen companions.

A Mutation kicks Tiberius into the sun. He quickly rolls to the side as the Mutation tries to jump on top of him. Tiberius turns to his feet and runs the Mutation through. The Mutation collapses, dead.

TIBERIUS

So, you still die like the rest
of us.

Yori, Tyran, and Boltash reappear. Seeing the hopelessness of the battle, Yori calls out.

YORI

Come on!

Tiberius, Kaltesh, and FALTA (a woman appearing to be around 23 with jet black hair, deep brown eyes and is shorter than average) escape to Yori and her band.

The 6 run through a rear exit and down a flight of carved stone steps. Yori pulls out a self-lighting torch and leads them through catacombs beneath the church.

The Mutations stop at the catacomb entrance off the side of the sanctuary. Vladimir walks up behind them.

VLADIMIR

Excellent work, my friends. We can
take it from here.

A contingency of Tepish come up behind Vladimir, dressed in day-cloaks.

VLADIMIR

They will die down there.

INT. KELİRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 202 - DAY

David stands with his ear against the wall. He smiles and turns to Beth, who is reclining on the bed.

DAVID

He's asleep.

BETH

How can you tell?

DAVID

He snores...loudly.

David jumps back into bed. Beth cuddles up to him.

DAVID

So who do you think they had behind that window?

BETH

That was the person I saw when I took a sample of their newest poison. He was a recipient of it and was unconscious at that time. I guess they transported him here after that.

DAVID

So, the Tepish are involved.

BETH

Apparently. What do you think they want with this town?

DAVID

I would guess either an out of the way test area, or a fair supply of victims.

BETH

The Tepish don't just leave their victims in peace. There are unchanged people here. Maybe we should try and get them out.

DAVID

We should advise our chain of command what we've discovered, and they'll let us know what the best thing to do is. Tonight, we meet whoever is in charge of Obadiah.

BETH

We can't trust him.

DAVID

Of course not, but as long as we continue in our naïvety, we'll be fine until we report. I think we may have all the info we need, but I'd like to know what the Tepish want with the people.

BETH

Agreed.

They settle in to bed and go to sleep.

INT. ERIM CHURCH CATACOMBS - DAY

Yori leads Tiberius, Kaltesh, Tyran, Boltash, and Falta through the catacombs using SELF-LIGHTING TORCHES.

TIBERIUS

Yori, do you know where this will lead us?

YORI

Tiberius, I don't even know IF there's a way out. We heard the fighting and ran back without searching the whole thing.

TIBERIUS

How are your instincts?

YORI

Perfect as ever. If there's an exit, I'll find it.

TYRAN

On the bright side, the maze of this place will at least slow down our pursuers. There hasn't been a sound of them since we got down here.

BOLTASH

Doesn't mean much. We didn't hear them earlier. Just saw them.

KALTESH

(to Tiberius)

What are we to do if cornered?

TIBERIUS

Give them something to talk about.

If we go down, we go down fighting.

FALTA

Comforting thought.

The Rastem walk onward.

INT. ERIM CHURCH CATACOMB ENTRANCE - DAY

At the entrance to the catacombs, the contingent of Tepish warriors enter and remove their day-travel cloaks. Vladimir stands before them holding a self-lighting torch.

VLADIMIR

Somewhere in this maze are our enemies. They have subverted us for long enough. Spread out and find them. When you find them, kill them.

Vladimir stands aside and the Tepish spread out through the halls of the catacombs.

INT. ERIM CHURCH CATACOMBS - DAY

The Rastem continue through the tunnels.

The Tepish warriors charge through recklessly, the lead holding a self-lighting torch.

Falta stops and turns back.

FALTA

Boltash, do you hear that?

BOLTASH

That sounds like more than 10.
Tiberius!

Tiberius walks back to them.

TIBERIUS

What is it?

BOLTASH

Listen!

Tiberius listens to the sounds issuing from within the catacombs.

TIBERIUS

They've set their Tepish warriors on us! We've got to get to safety.

Tiberius walks to Yori.

TIBERIUS

We need to find a place to hide.

YORI

These catacombs are as unfamiliar to me as everyone else. I have tried to keep us going upward, or at least level, but I don't know if we're getting anywhere.

Tiberius looks around. Surrounding their position are eight coffins, four on each side of the room, four on the floor and four on a dug out "shelf" above the lower ones.

TIBERIUS

Listen, everyone. We're going to have to crawl into the crypts. It will not be fun, but I'll spend the night with a stiff if I can wake up tomorrow. Let's take these here. Yori, give me the light.

She hands him the torch.

TIBERIUS

You 5 get in. I'll go last. Cover your faces with your cloaks, or you'll choke on the dust. Do not get out until I give the signal. You better get comfortable. I'm not going to get us out until I'm satisfied they have gone.

The other 5 crawl into the nearby crypts, cover their faces with their cloaks to protect from the dust, and close the lids. Satisfied they are safe, Tiberius douses the light and crawls into one.

Silence. Darkness. Noises sound from running feet. A troop of Tepish charge by. Silence again. Darkness.

EXT. KELĪRUM - NIGHT

Frinyar leaves the Halfway House with David and Beth in tow. As they walk, they notice two stakes in front of the Town Hall. The townspeople are piling logs around one of the two stakes. David turns to Beth.

DAVID

This can't be good.

Beth shakes her head. They walk to the Town Hall. Obadiah awaits them on the steps.

OBADIAH

Good evening.

DAVID

Mayor Obadiah, what's going on?

OBADIAH

We are preparing a celebration of long awaited freedom.

Six townspeople Fempiror approach and stand behind David and Beth. David and Beth look at them, curious.

BETH

Freedom? From what?

OBADIAH

You.

The 6 seize David and Beth, 3 each, holding them fast. David and Beth look at their attackers for a moment.

BETH

Be calm, David.

They do not struggle, but stare at Obadiah.

DAVID

Why are you doing this?

OBADIAH

You don't know?

BETH

Are we acting guilty of something?

OBADIAH

Over the past few weeks, people have turned up missing.

DAVID

What should we know about that?

BETH

We've barely spent any time here.

OBADIAH

Don't play innocent with me. You two are spies for the insurrectionists called Rastem and Elewo. You seek to subvert the current rulers and cause nothing but trouble. You have come here to take people for your cause, whether they like it or not. We are not fighters!

BETH

Where did you come up with an idea like that?

OBADIAH

Our leader knows who you are. Tie them up.

The Fempiror lead them to the stakes. 3 to 1 being unfair odds, they go without struggle.

The Fempiror tie David to the one with the wood and Beth to the one standing free. David and Beth test the ropes. They don't give at all. The people stand around with self-lighting torches, ready to set them ablaze.

DAVID

If you know anything, then you should know that neither the Rastem nor the Elewo recruits any one against their will. That is the way of the Tepish.

OBADIAH

That is what an insurrectionist would say. Our leaders know you. You can address your pithy remarks to him.

Obadiah stands back and out of the doorway of the Town Hall walks-

ABRAHAM BARBER! HE IS THE VOICE.

DAVID

Abraham!

BETH

I don't believe it. What are you doing here?

ABRAHAM

I might ask you the same question. You come here with your story of having been recently changed, but the truth is you were changed 10 years ago...both of you.

DAVID

But you. You were fine. I left you
as a human.

ABRAHAM

Yes, you did. You tossed me off of
your Levi-cart to die in the plains
around Hauginstown.

DAVID

It was within walking distance!

ABRAHAM

You must have forgotten that your
friend was fighting a Tepish,
whose sworn duty is to transmutate
humans.

DAVID

Vladimir!

ABRAHAM

Yes, Vladimir. He changed me. I
consider it a favor, since I was
able to find you and punish you
for what you did to her.

BETH

Abraham, I forgive him. He didn't
know what he was doing!

ABRAHAM

Irrelevant. Vladimir told me that
Zechariah told David repeatedly
not to return, but he disobeyed.

DAVID

So stand up to me and we will fight.
don't destroy me without so much
as getting your hands dirty. What
kind of revenge is that?

ABRAHAM

Not so easy. You hooked up with the Rastem. That sword you carry is your own, and in 10 years of straight training, you're at least formidable. I received only minimal training before the Tepish recognized my abilities and moved me into researching the mutation.

Abraham walks beyond David to Beth.

ABRAHAM

And you. I loved you. I really did, but you rejected me. You come to town unarmed, but with him. So either you remained together, which I find unlikely, or you were trained as an Elewo, and are more lethal unarmed than he is.

Beth doesn't respond.

ABRAHAM

But I don't lie when I tell you I loved you. My revenge is with David alone. You will live to fight another day.

BETH

Then untie me.

ABRAHAM

Not on your life. When he is a charred heap, then you can go free.

BETH

I'd rather die, then to thank you for living.

Abraham smiles and walks away.

ABRAHAM

Enjoy your death, David

He walks away.

ABRAHAM

Light him up.

DAVID

This is a coward's revenge,
Abraham.

Abraham only watches. The townspeople standing around set their torches on David's woodpile. They slowly light up the night sky. As Abraham watches, another townspeople runs up to him.

TOWNSPERSON

Sir! Sir! There are horses
approaching.

Abraham looks up. A contingent of Tepish rides in on horseback. Abraham strides up to him.

ABRAHAM

(in Felletterusk)

Hav paca?

(translation)

What's going on?

TEPISH RIDER

(in Felletterusk)

Höv sil li?

(translation)

Who are you?

ABRAHAM

(in Felletterusk)

Abraham Barber. Ka kårta ate
jactürpün Cunliskelpar Tepish
Erimero. Rödpün Malnakelmef
Kurvatz.

(translation)

Abraham Barber. I am working on a
project for the Tepish Council of
Erim. On orders from the Kurvatz
Malnak.

TEPISH RIDER

(in Felletterusk)

Ka mäoca rödmor haki enalupramef,
Elrod Malnakel. Siht tranu
özlavileta tiki gertöskjav. Liki
rormis kårta. Lew sil resto ti
jetoraz.

(translation)

I come with orders from his superior,
the Elrod Malnak. This town has
outlived its usefulness. Your serum
is effective. We've come to sterilize
the town.

ABRAHAM

What?

TEPISH RIDER

Your duty here is complete. Return
to Erim and report. We will finish
here.

ABRAHAM

But-

TEPISH RIDER

(to his squad)

Wipe them out!

Abraham watches helplessly as the Riders move into the throng of people.

David and Beth struggle against their bonds as the townspeople are cut down around them. Beth delivers several swift kicks to the base of her stake. She succeeds in snapping it. She holds the rope close to the flame. The rope weakens and snaps.

She jumps over to David and grabs a flaming piece of wood. She burns his bonds.

BETH

We have to stop this slaughter.

David nods. They split up. David grabs the stake that Beth had broken. He swings it at a riding Tepish and throws him from his steed.

The Tepish rises and picks up his sword. David keeps his attention with the stake as Beth approaches from behind him and snaps his neck.

DAVID

Another?

BETH

Please.

David carries his stake like a twig and swings at another Tepish, knocking him off. He comes to his feet, but David swings the heavy log down on his head, smashing him to the ground.

Beth, jump kicks another Rider, knocking him from his mount. Before he can get up, she is on top of him and smashes his nose.

Another Rider makes straight for David. David swings, but the Rider grabs the end and swings David into a building. David smashes through the wall and lies unconscious. Beth spins around.

BETH

David!

A Rider passes behind her slashing her back. She staggers, but retains her strength. More and more riders approach her. She ducks and avoids the blades.

She grabs the hand of one who stretched too far, and throws him into another, causing them both to skid on the ground.

It is not enough. As they circle her on their horses, they slice at her again and again.

One of them finally runs her through, lifts her onto his blade, and throws her over his head and off his blade. She crumples against a building, motionless.

Abraham watches this, staggered, powerless to prevent it. The Tepish Riders finish their work, leaving bodies in their wake. They ride out of Kelirum, leaving Abraham alone.

The night is now silent except for the roar of the fires.

Thunder rolls. Rain falls. Abraham doesn't react, but continues to look to where Beth landed.

David crawls out of the building he fell into.

DAVID

Beth! Beth!

Abraham watches him, anger welling up within him.

David finds Beth's body. He kneels down beside her. She has been sliced all over and is covered in blood. He cradles her head in his arms and kisses her.

DAVID

(crying)

Oh Beth. Beth, forgive me.

Abraham walks up to him. David looks up at him. His eyes narrow.

DAVID

Why? There was no reason to destroy
this village.

He lowers Beth to the ground and stands before Abraham.

DAVID

She did not have to die.

ABRAHAM

I had nothing to do with this. She
was going to go free.

DAVID

You slaughtered all those people.

ABRAHAM

I did nothing.

David grabs him by the collar.

DAVID

Why shouldn't I kill you?

ABRAHAM

You've certainly succeeded in killing everyone else who has come close to you. Zechariah. Beth.

DAVID

I did not kill them.

ABRAHAM

No? You were the catalyst. If it weren't for you, they would both be alive. Do you wish to add me to your list?

David softens and releases Abraham.

DAVID

No.

David drops to his knees beside Beth again.

DAVID

You're right. I am a blight. Those closest to me have died. Perhaps you were right to want to kill me.

ABRAHAM

I have not forgotten my promise. And I intend to make good on it.

Abraham softens and kneels next to Beth with David.

ABRAHAM

However, I think we can help each other for the moment.

DAVID

Why should I?

ABRAHAM

Because you owe it to me. It is because of you that I am a Fempiror and even in the employ of the Tepish.

DAVID

You choose your sides.

ABRAHAM

That may be the Rastem way, but with the Tepish, you do as you're told or you die. I had no choice. You know that.

DAVID

What did you do for them?

ABRAHAM

You know how the difference between a Fempiror and the Vampire myth is so pronounced?

DAVID

What of it?

ABRAHAM

I helped them mutate our blood into a serum to create real Vampires. They feed on real blood.

David's mouth drops open. His eyes widen.

DAVID

Why?

ABRAHAM

I had to, but I wish I hadn't. I will spend my life trying to undo it. I helped them to create monsters. When they are hungry, they think of nothing but the hunt. They're just as fast as we are, and just as strong. They can survive in sunlight, and they are able to cling to walls and ceilings. They are further removed from humanity than we are.

DAVID

Dear God...

ABRAHAM

It's worse. Their blood will change humans as ours will, but ours has no effect on them.

DAVID

And theirs has none on us?

ABRAHAM

Wrong. It takes the mutation 10 days to change a human, but only 10 seconds to change a Fempiror.

DAVID

You fool!

ABRAHAM

I admit it.

DAVID

Then let's go to the source and destroy it.

David gets up and starts walking out of town.

ABRAHAM

Do you know what you're saying?

DAVID

I don't care.

ABRAHAM

David, you can't do it on your own. You need me.

DAVID

You would betray me to my death.

ABRAHAM

Just as I promise to avenge Beth through your death, I also promise that I will do nothing to you until we have succeeded in this.

David stops, realizing.

DAVID

I have no choice, do I?

ABRAHAM

No, you don't.

INT. ABRAHAM'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Abraham sits at his desk. David sits in one of the chairs.

DAVID

So, what do you suggest?

ABRAHAM

The task before us is as easy as it is hard. The Tepish Fortress is situated over the site of the original Body Hall, and they both used the same type of waste system, if you want to call it a system.

INSERT IMAGES: The Tepish Fortress...its interiors...down one of the chamber pots to the depths below...the interior of a huge underground cavern, the contents of which are stagnant excrement in deep pools of oily sludge.

ABRAHAM (V.O.)

Every chamber pot in the place has a tube beneath it that leads to a underground cavern. Each tube has a door at the top and a door at the bottom to help contain the smell. All the waste just sits down there in dark pools of some kind of thick, slick liquid. Although there is a way into that room, believe me, you don't want to go there. The smell will knock you flat.

BACK TO SCENE

DAVID

Why does this matter?

ABRAHAM

Human waste, if contained, creates a gas that will ignite. Left to stagnate with the dark fluid, and you have an explosive situation.

DAVID

Meaning?

ABRAHAM

Meaning, if you drop something like a torch down one of the chamber pots, it'll set that whole level on fire. Once it goes, the whole tower will collapse on itself.

DAVID

That sounds easy.

ABRAHAM

That part is. The problem is that the flames will spread so quickly into the first level that you'll need to do it from pretty high up, and from there, you'd have to go out a window or something.

DAVID

Oh. What do we have to work with?

ABRAHAM

I can get you in the door as a prisoner. From there, I can say you overpowered me, and you're on your own. I will head to the lab and destroy what I can. You can figure out how you can drop a torch down the tubes and make it out in one piece.

DAVID

If I'm going to destroy the place, then why do you need to go to the labs, first?

ABRAHAM

Two reasons: first, you might not succeed, so at least I will have to; second, if you do succeed, there's a chance that some information from the lab could survive. Either way, I want to hit the lab first.

DAVID

Fine. Let's go.

ABRAHAM

I have to do one thing.

INT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Abraham walks down the passage to the sunroom.

DAVID

Where are we going?

ABRAHAM

I need to destroy the subject here. None can survive if we are to eradicate the mutation.

INT. TOWN HALL SUN ROOM - NIGHT

Abraham enters and stops, mouth open.

DAVID

What is it?

David looks at the room beyond the glass. The outside glass has been smashed and the occupants are gone.

DAVID

How many were there?

ABRAHAM

Two. One was human and the other Fempiror, originally. And now, they're gone.

DAVID

I need to get my sword.

ABRAHAM

Right.

EXT. KELĪRUM - NIGHT

The rain stopped. Thunder continues to roll.

ABRAHAM

At least it stopped raining.

DAVID

Not for long, though. Do you see them?

ABRAHAM

No, I don't.

David and Abraham run into the Halfway House. Above the door, perched sideways on the second floor wall is the Subject Mutation. He leaps down in front of the door and walks in.

INT. KELĪRUM HALFWAY HOUSE, ROOM 202 - NIGHT

David runs into the room, followed by Abraham.

He opens his bag, and puts on his gauntlets, sword, and long coat. He removes the self-lighting torch from the wall and attaches it to his belt. He turns to Abraham.

DAVID

I wish I had something you could use.

Abraham pulls a dagger from his belt.

ABRAHAM

I trained as a Tepish for two years. I'm no fighter, but I can protect myself.

DAVID

Let's go.

They turn for the door. Subject steps into the doorway. He snarls, showing his fangs. Abraham and David back away.

Subject leaps for David. As he lands, David rolls and kicks Subject toward the wall. Subject smashes through the wall and outside.

David runs to the hole and looks out. Subject has already crawled to his feet. He smiles at David.

DAVID

Uh-oh.

ABRAHAM

David, look out!

David spins as Guard Mutation smashes into him, throwing him outside onto the ground 2 stories below.

EXT. KELİRUM - NIGHT

Subject moves in for the kill as well, but Guard bats him back. David kicks Guard off and jumps to his feet. He draws his sword and stands ready.

Abraham ducks back inside and runs down the stairs and outside.

The two Mutations stand opposite each other. David attempts to keep both of them within eyesight.

Guard feints behind David and leaps on his back. He tries to bite, but David grabs him and throws him to the ground. He swings, but Guard avoids his swipe.

Subject grabs David from behind and holds him tight. David works to kick them off. Guard goes for one side of his neck while Subject goes for the other.

Suddenly, Subject lurches. Abraham withdraws his dagger from Subject's back and stabs again. David freed, he delivers a punch to Guard who is thrown back.

Subject swings around and throws Abraham to the ground. Subject pounces on him and leans in for the bite.

David tries to reach Abraham, but Guard keeps him occupied. He attacks but David throws him off. Guard avoids every blade swipe David attempts in response.

Thunder rolls. Rain falls again as Subject reaches Abraham's neck. Abraham struggles fruitlessly.

As the drops hit the ground, Subject stops. Guard has also ceased his attacks. As Subject's back gets wet, steam arises. Guard also begins to steam.

Abraham kicks Subject off of him. Subject lands writhing in pain as the rain beats down on him. The skin of the Mutations melts away from their bodies and is washed away in the downpour.

Eventually, the screaming ceases and the writhing stops. The Mutations are dead. Abraham and David stand in utter shock.

DAVID

Did you know that would happen?

Mouth open, Abraham shakes his head. As the rain falls on the Mutation corpses, steam continues to rise from them.

DAVID

Let's go.

Abraham nods and they leave Kelirum.

INT. ERIM CHURCH CATACOMBS - NIGHT

Darkness. Tiberius raises the lid of his tomb and looks out. No one is out there. No sounds of anything except his own breath.

He crawls out of the crypt. He walks to the center of the small area. Still no sound. He illuminates the torch.

Light floods the small area. Around the perimeter of the crypts are ropes on the ground. The ropes are wet with some sort of dark, shimmery substance. Tiberius winces when he sniffs of it.

TIBERIUS

Rastem! We're clear.

The other 5 exit the crypts and join Tiberius.

KALTESH

And I thought the air was stale
out here.

FALTA

What are these?

TIBERIUS

Not sure. They are damp with a foul-
smelling substance. I don't like it.

YORI

What do you think? Further in, or
back the way we came?

BOLTASH

I doubt the Tepish would let us go
so easily.

TIBERIUS

I agree. But we may not find another
way out. We can't remain down here
forever.

TYRAN

So we take our chances either way.

KALTESH

It doesn't look good.

TIBERIUS

The other problem we have is that we
don't know if the Tepish actually
left or are camping out down here
waiting for us to show ourselves.

KALTESH

If we stay together, we should be
able to defend ourselves. We have
the advantage of surprise.

TIBERIUS

And if I remember correctly, there
is another way in near the cemetery.

TYRAN

What if they are watching that exit?

TIBERIUS

Then we'll have to fight.

INT. ERIM CHURCH CATACOMBS ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Large ropes stretch out from the entrance down the catacombs and branch out in all directions. Vladimir stands watching the hallways. A Tepish brings him a self-lighting torch. Vladimir takes it.

VLADIMIR

So, my dear friends, you wish to
hide in a tomb? I wish to add you
to it.

Vladimir touches the torch to the ropes. The flames catch immediately and race down the length of them through the catacombs. Vladimir hands the torch back to the Tepish.

VLADIMIR

If the flames don't kill them, the
smoke will.

He exits the catacombs with the other Tepish and closes the door.

INT. ERIM CHURCH CATACOMBS - NIGHT

The 6 walk through the halls. Boltash, who is bringing up the rear, stops and looks back.

BOLTASH

Do you hear something?

The others stop and turn. Tiberius listens for a moment. His eyes widen.

TIBERIUS

They're burning us out! Run!

They run through the halls following Yori. The flames catch up to them running down the ropes.

FALTA

Stay away from the ropes!

The flames bypass them. Now they run through a hall of fire, going to an unknown destination.

TIBERIUS

Follow the ropes. They have to lead somewhere.

YORI

How can you be sure?

TIBERIUS

Blind hope, at this point.

YORI

But they're bound to be waiting when we come out.

TIBERIUS

I'll take a good fight over this.

They follow the ropes through the catacombs until...

INT. ERIM MAUSOLEUM - NIGHT

A door slams open in the mausoleum of a cemetery on the outskirts of Erim. The 6 Rastem run out. Smoke billows after them. They gasp with breath.

TYRAN

We've gotta get some fresh air.

Tyran moves for the door.

TIBERIUS

Wait!

Tiberius moves to the door and listens. Muffled voices sound from outside. One stands above the rest, giving muffled orders.

TIBERIUS

Get ready.

The 6 remaining Rastem draw their swords and prepare for the worst. Tyran stands at one of the double doors, while Tiberius stands at the other.

TIBERIUS

On three, we come out fighting.

Tyran nods. The 4 inside stand ready to run.

TIBERIUS

1...2...3!

Tyran and Tiberius fling the doors open and the 6 charge out, ready for battle.

EXT. ERIM CEMETERY - NIGHT

They run out and stop. They all relax. Ulrich and a small band of Elewo pile carcasses of Tepish beside gravestones. Ulrich looks up, startled, and then relaxes.

ULRICH

Well, that explains the Tepish build-up in the cemetery.

EXT. ERIM - NIGHT

David and Abraham fly into Erim in the Levi-cart. They cruise through the center of the city towards the fortress. He pulls the Levi-cart off to the side, out of the line of sight of the fortress.

David and Abraham get out of the cart and walk towards the fortress.

DAVID

You're sure they'll just let you take me in there unescorted?

ABRAHAM

I don't know. Act drugged. I can explain around it.

DAVID

All right.

Abraham carries David's sword, and they approach the fortress entrance. A Tepish Guard halts them.

TEPISH GUARD

Stop. What is your name?

ABRAHAM

Abraham Barber. Alchemist under the Kurvatz Malnak. Working on the Mutation serum.

TEPISH GUARD

Who is this?

ABRAHAM

This is David Taylor. I have a truth potion I can give him so he can tell a Triver where the Rastem are located.

The guard looks at David.

TEPISH GUARD

What's wrong with him?

ABRAHAM

He is drugged and docile. I can handle him.

TEPISH GUARD

Very well. Move along.

Abraham pushes David through the entrance. After they pass, the two guards look at each other and smile. Close inspection reveals that these two are two of the Mutations from the earlier battle.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

Abraham leads David through the institutional halls of the Fortress. He guides David into a small room.

On the backside of the room is a wench of some sort. A cable leads from the wench up out of the room and another next to it is attached to the floor.

DAVID

What's this?

ABRAHAM

You'll see.

Abraham slides a cage door closed. He pumps a handle which runs several gears attached to the wench. The wench gathers the cable and pulls the room upwards.

DAVID

This is amazing!

ABRAHAM

It is. We're still working on one that you don't have to pump to go up. It's easier than walking stairs, all the same.

DAVID

True.

They watch as the floors pass by. Abraham looks worried.

DAVID

What's wrong?

ABRAHAM

It's too quiet. The last time I was here, there was much activity. Or at least, you could hear talking. But there's nothing. It concerns me. Be ready for anything.

David nods and draws his sword.

They pass a floor where several Fempiror are passed out on the floor. David turns to Abraham, who looks very concerned.

DAVID
10 seconds, right?

Abraham nods.

DAVID
Any unconsciousness after that?

ABRAHAM
About 30 minutes to an hour.

DAVID
Which means we're going to have
some problems getting out.

Abraham nods and keeps pumping. He stops as the room comes to rest on the 7th floor. David sidles out. Abraham walks out and turns to the right.

ABRAHAM
Follow me.

David follows, watching his back.

INT. ELEWO HIDEOUT - NIGHT

Tiberius stands with Ulrich.

TIBERIUS
This outrage must be stopped,
Ulrich. The Tepish cannot be
allowed to further pervert
humanity like this.

ULRICH
And yet, our previous run on the
Tepish fortress met with disastrous
results.

TIBERIUS

If by my death, we may stop the spread of these things, then I willingly sacrifice it.

ULRICH

We cannot ask our people to do this.

TIBERIUS

Of course we can't. I volunteer, and we shall take volunteers.

ULRICH

We shall make it known what we want to do, and when we mean to do it. That way, no one is compelled to follow, and they need not turn from our face if they wish to back out.

TIBERIUS

Agreed. Have you heard from any of my other Rastem? Those who were not in my party when we moved.

ULRICH

15 Rastem were found at your new quarters. We have brought them here.

Tiberius turns, frustrated.

TIBERIUS

Less than half of that party. They must be stopped.

ULRICH

Then I shall spread the word among my people, and allow you to do the same with yours.

TIBERIUS

We leave as soon as possible.

ULRICH

Very well.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - MUTATION LAB - NIGHT

Abraham and David enter the lab. It is a mess. Abraham looks over it, concerned.

ABRAHAM

David, have you heard the story of Voivode and the creation of the Fempiror?

DAVID

Of course.

ABRAHAM

You remember what the Tepish did to him and his lab when they took over.

DAVID

They changed him and destroyed his lab.

ABRAHAM

Do you know that history repeats itself?

DAVID

Then we better get out of here.

ABRAHAM

Right. There's a water closet-

The door slams open. Several Fempiror file into the room. Vladimir follows.

VLADIMIR

You were seen approaching, Abraham. Interesting to find you here with your old friend, on whom I believe you swore vengeance.

ABRAHAM

What's going on Vladimir?

VLADIMIR

I'm surprised you need ask.
(to the other Fempiror)
Bring them.

They disarm David. Abraham is forced along.

INT. ELROD MALNAK'S CHAMBER, TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

KARIAN, Elrod Malnak of the Tepish, sits atop his throne with his TRIVER (TYRONIS, OLIGAR, and VYRNYA) surrounding him. Other Tepish stand guard around them.

Vladimir leads David and Abraham into the chamber. Upon reaching Karian, Vladimir kneels. Abraham and the other Tepish follow suit, but David refuses.

KARIAN

So, the prodigy of the late
Zechariah stands before me again.
I do not forget a face, lad. You
were silent last time, but will
probably say much now. Already,
I see you learned much from his
insolence.

DAVID

I hold no reverence for you, so I
will not bow to you.

KARIAN

It matters not.

He gestures, and the others rise.

KARIAN

At this time, we are all together
in the same boat. Trapped by our
own impudence. By now, you know we
have accomplished our goal in
creating the perfect Tepish warrior.
One who thinks of nothing but the
goal. But our perfection turned on
us. The creation turned on its
creator and now you two slipped
through the cracks to find
yourselves trapped on the only floor
not yet overrun. How lucky for you.

DAVID

The folly of Voivode repeats.

ABRAHAM

So the guards at the door?

VLADIMIR

The guards got replaced first. They
would let Tiberius, Ulrich, and the
whole of the Rastem and Elewo forces
in. Only because they know they will
be turning whoever comes in eventually.

DAVID

But this floor is not free. The
lab was destroyed.

Karian looks to Vladimir.

KARIAN

Is this true?

VLADIMIR

We found the lab in shambles, but
did not investigate.

KARIAN

And you did not destroy it, Abraham?

ABRAHAM

Realizing the danger of the Mutation,
it was my intention, but someone got
there before me.

KARIAN

So they're here...

A Tepish guard runs into the room. He closes and bars the door.
He turns to Karian with fear on his face. He kneels.

GUARD

They've broken through, Elrod
Malnak. We are finished.

EXT. ERIM STREETS - NIGHT

Tiberius walks before a contingent of Rastem and Elewo warriors.
Ulrich stands to one side watching.

TIBERIUS

Loyal Fempiror, we stand at the
edge of our doom. The Tepish have
committed an act against nature by
creating what can only be
determined as true Vampires. This
perversion must be stopped at all
costs, even at the costs of our
own lives. You have all volunteered
for this mission with the knowledge
that you may not return. We go
against the Fortress of the Tepish,
where it began. We must stop this
nightmare before it spreads. We
give our lives for the generations
to follow. We will not allow this
blight on the earth to continue. If
we die, we die for those who will
live. Tonight, we fight!

The Rastem and Elewo cheer. Tiberius walks to Ulrich and they
clasp hands.

TIBERIUS

To death, old friend.

ULRICH

To death.

Tiberius and Ulrich takes their positions before the Rastem and Elewo. They march to the Fortress.

INT. ELROD MALNAK CHAMBER, TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

Guards stand near the door, ready. Others stand against it, bracing against the impacts of the Mutations. Vladimir, Abraham, David, and the Tepish Hierarchy stay behind them all.

KARIAN

Vladimir.

VLADIMIR

My lord.

KARIAN

Give David his sword.

VLADIMIR

You're certain?

KARIAN

We fight and die together. Die or become like them. He will have no motivation to kill us.

VLADIMIR

As you wish.

Vladimir gives David his sword. David nods.

DAVID

Thank you, Vladimir.

VLADIMIR

Let us pray you've learned something in the past 10 years.

DAVID

I assure you I have.

David stands beside Abraham, ready for anything.

DAVID
 (to Abraham)
 Is there another way out of this
 room?

ABRAHAM
 If there is, I've never heard of
 it. If there were windows, we'd be
 overrun already.

DAVID
 Good point.

The pounding continues. The thick wooden door cracks under the
 blows.

DAVID
 Here we go.

Abraham draws his dagger and gulps.

ABRAHAM
 Yes. Here we go.

EXT. TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

Tiberius, Ulrich, and their modest army approach the entry of
 the Tepish Fortress. The guards grin and bare their teeth.
 Rastem draw their swords. Elewo ready themselves.

INT. ELROD MALNAK CHAMBER, TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

The Mutations continue pounding at the door. Splinters fall to
 the ground. Holes open in the woodwork. The Tepish and David
 prepare themselves for their final stand.

EXT. TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

Tiberius raises his sword before the formation.

TIBERIUS
 Charge!

The army charges the Fortress. The guards are quickly downed as the group charges inward.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

The Rastem and Elewo enter the high foyer which stretches up for several floors. Mutations scurry out of the woodwork all over the place. They scurry down the walls and out of the doorways.

TIBERIUS

Prepare yourselves!

The Mutations reach the army and strike!

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - ELROD MALNAK CHAMBER - NIGHT

The pounding ceases. The Mutations at the door run away. Those within look at each other, confused.

VLADIMIR

What happened?

GUARD

Unknown, sir.

KARIAN

Open the doors.

Cautiously, the guards look out of the doors. The hall is empty. Sounds of a distant battle ring through the halls.

KARIAN

Go! Check it out.

GUARD

(re: David)

What about him?

KARIAN

I don't care.

The Tepish and David file out to the battle. As the Tepish continue on, David hangs back. Abraham slows down and turns to him.

ABRAHAM

What are you doing?

DAVID

I need to visit the water closet.

Abraham nods in the direction of a nearby water closet and follows on. David ducks into it.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

The Rastem and Elewo work their crafts swinging and slashing at their enemies. The Mutations are deadly quick, and get the better of several warriors. With others to back the fallen warriors up, however, the Mutations are unable to get a hold on any of them.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - SEVENTH FLOOR WATER CLOSET - NIGHT

David presses the pedal activating the trap door on the chamber pot. He lights the torch. He smiles and drops it down the hole. He releases the lever and the trap door closes. He leaves the water closet.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

The Tepish guards join the battle with the Rastem and Elewo. The Rastem and Elewo are somewhat surprised to see their adversaries join in the battle against their creations.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - CHAMBER POT PASSAGE - NIGHT

The torch drops into the depths. As soon as it breaks the plane of the second trap, the fire ignites the gas and waste. It spreads quickly across the surface of the liquid below with deafening boom.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - SEVENTH FLOOR - NIGHT

David stumbles in the hallway.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

The army stumbles causing a hiccup in the battle. Flames engulf portions of the floor.

TIBERIUS

What's going on?

Abraham speaks up.

ABRAHAM

It's David. He dropped a flame into the depths below the fortress. This place is going to burn to the ground.

Tiberius smiles.

TIBERIUS

Good boy.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - SEVENTH FLOOR - NIGHT

David gets to his feet. Behind him, a Mutation creeps up. David freezes. He whips around and draws his sword as the Mutation pounces on him. David rolls the Mutation off him and out the window.

DAVID

Oh no.

David runs over to the window and looks out. There is no sign of the Mutation outside the window, on the ground, or even across the alleyway on a nearby building.

The Mutation is perched on the wall above David's head!

It jumps down grabbing David's head. David jerks back inside the window, throwing the Mutation off balance. The Mutation catches itself on the edge of the window and leaps through to attack David.

David holds his sword out to impale the Mutation, but it stops short and avoids the blade. David takes several swipes at the Mutation, but each time it avoids his contact.

The floor shakes again which throws the Mutation off balance. David takes advantage of the moment and runs the Mutation through.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

The battle is won. The Mutations flee into the rafters, oblivious to the peril.

TIBERIUS

Let's get out of here!

The Rastem, Elewo, and Tepish all make a break for the entrance.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - ELROD MALNAK CHAMBER - NIGHT

Karian paces along with his three Triver.

TYRONIS

Elrod Malnak, the tremors are getting worse, we should go.

KARIAN

No, Tyronis. Our mission is to lead. We should be escorted out for our own protection.

OLIGAR

I agree. It's too dangerous to go without escorts.

EXT. ERIM STREETS - NIGHT

Flames engulf the base of the fortress. Vladimir stands next to Tiberius and the Tepish Guards.

TIBERIUS

Vladimir, isn't the Elrod Malnak still up in there.

VLADIMIR

He can take care of himself.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - NIGHT

David charges down the steps towards the entrance. The fortress suddenly lurches down into the ground. The floor collapses from beneath the steps below. David backs up the steps and heads to the next floor.

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - ELROD MALNAK CHAMBER - NIGHT

The Triver suddenly stand still in shock. Several Mutations slink through the doorway. Upon seeing them, they smile wide, fanged smiles.

VYRNYA

Elrod Malnak. Karian. We have a problem.

Karian backs away from them.

TYRONIS

What do we do?

KARIAN

Become like them.

More Mutations enter the room. They strike!

INT. TEPISH FORTRESS - THIRD FLOOR - NIGHT

David heads to a nearby window. From high above, he hears screams from the Elrod Malnak and his staff. David shakes his head.

He looks out the window across an alleyway to a nearby building. He glances behind him as several Mutations walk around the corner.

He leaps out the window to the nearby building. He grabs onto the side of the roof, but loses his grip and crashes to the ground.

As the Mutations approach, the floor falls out beneath them. They fall into the flaming muck in the basement of the Fortress.

EXT. ERIM STREETS - NIGHT

The Rastem, Elewo, and Tepish stand silently as the Tepish Fortress collapses onto itself and into the ground.

As it burns, Vladimir glances at a Tepish standing near him. Vladimir slowly backs away from the group. Other Tepish warriors do the same.

Tiberius turns to Ulrich.

TIBERIUS

It is time to handle the Tepish.

ULRICH

I agree.

They walk through the throng of warriors.

TIBERIUS

Where are they?

They continue looking.

ULRICH

I believe the cowards have fled once again.

TIBERIUS

It appears that way.

EXT. TEPISH FORTRESS ALLEY - NIGHT

David lies on the ground, unconscious. A dagger is placed against his neck. Abraham kicks him in the side.

ABRAHAM

Get up!

He kicks again.

ABRAHAM

Wake up!

David opens his eyes. Abraham holds the dagger tight against him.

ABRAHAM

Our truce is at an end. You are now responsible for not only Beth's change, but her death as well. You did not protect her.

DAVID

So, even after everything-

Abraham pushes in on the dagger.

ABRAHAM

Everything you do cannot change what you've done! You destroyed her life! You destroyed mine in the process! How can I forgive that?

DAVID

So you're going to kill me.

ABRAHAM

I told you I would.

David kicks his leg into Abraham's side, tossing his over David's head. David whips up, draws his sword and holds it before Abraham.

DAVID

Today is not the day.

ABRAHAM

If you're going to kill me, then go ahead. I don't deserve to live.

DAVID

What will you do if I let you go?

ABRAHAM

Make sure none of those things survived. If they did, I will track them down and destroy them. They are my responsibility, and I will take care of them.

DAVID

You can come with us.

ABRAHAM

I will not be a part of anything that accepts you. If I find you again, I will not hesitate to make good on my promise.

David sheathes his sword. He offers his hand to Abraham. Abraham shakes him off and rises to his feet.

DAVID

I don't hate you, Abraham. I regret what happened, but we must make the most of what we have. I'm not going to kill you. You are not my enemy.

ABRAHAM

I wish we could agree. Good-bye, David.

DAVID

Go in peace, Abraham.

Abraham walks away. David watches him go. Tiberius walks in behind him.

TIBERIUS

That was your friend?

DAVID

He was.

Tiberius leads David out of the alley and into the streets.

TIBERIUS

No one can say anything to fix this.
He chose his path. You chose yours.
You can't make him change his mind.

DAVID

I know.

TIBERIUS

Good work, today. You've proven
yourself, finally.

DAVID

Thank you, Tiberius.

TIBERIUS

Rastem and Elewo. Appreciation for
David, who destroyed the Tepish
Fortress, and with it, the Vampire
mutations.

The Rastem and Elewo applaud David. They make their way from the
Ruins.

EXT./INT. TEPISH FORTRESS RUINS - NIGHT

Moving towards the Fortress ruins and through the ruins. In the
ruins of the Elrod Malnak Chamber, Karian lies unconscious on
the floor. He is miraculously untouched by the destruction of
the Fortress.

He yawns widely revealing elongated canines. His eyes snap open.

CUT TO BLACK.