EXT. OCEAN - DUSK

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

INT. OCEAN - DUSK

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

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - TRAINING ROOM

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

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

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

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

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

    DAVID
    Sparring comes later. For now, we work on the basics. They are aptly named “basic” because we can build on them.
ALEX
Yeah, but we’ve been working basics for a week.

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

ALEX
Let me try.

DAVID
You want to fight me?

ALEX
Yeah, if you go easy on me.

DAVID
Why should I go easy?

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

DAVID
That’s fair.

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

DAVID
All right, then. Let’s go.

ALEX
Finally.

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

ALEX
Well?
DAVID
Well what?

ALEX
Are we going?

DAVID
Where?

ALEX
Not where. To fight.

DAVID
I’m waiting for you.

ALEX
Don’t we bow or something?

DAVID
Why?

ALEX
Nevermind.

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

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

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

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

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

DAVID
I did. You have a lot to learn.
He holds it out to Alex.

DAVID
Now. Back to the basics.

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

DAVID
Again.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

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

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

RALPH
Oh, I’ve been thinking. I’ve been thinking this stinks.

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

RALPH
You said that last night.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

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

    BETH
    Agent 24, come in.

INT. VEHICLE - NIGHT

AGENT 24 answers the communicator.

    TOM
    24, here.

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

They look out of the windows, briefly.

    TOM
    No, I don’t see any-

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

    TOM
    Wait. There’s some-

EXT. VEHICLE - NIGHT

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

Silence. Darkness.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

EXT. FEMPIROR CITY – NIGHT

The city sits quiet under the waves.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY – KAPLIN’S OFFICE – NIGHT

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

KAPLIN
This is unacceptable! Unorthodox!

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

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

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

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

KALTESH
Our current laws apply to newly transmuted Fempiror, not old Fempiror new to the city. The Rastem code allows the pairing of Alex and David, and that is the ruling authority here.
KAPLIN
I am the ruling authority here.
This guy’s been alone for years.
How can we expect him to follow
our rules?

KALTESH
He’ll get the job done.

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

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

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

KAPLIN
How do you know that?

KALTESH
Trust. And also no evidence to the
contrary.

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

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

KAPLIN
I should make the agent assignments!
KALTESH
It’s a balance of power, Henry. We share the load. I pair them; you send them to their doom. I know the Rastem Code as well as our laws, and I followed both in this.

Kaplin’s desk communicator comes to life.

BETH (V.O.)
Mayor Kaplin.

Kaplin scowls at the interruption and presses the button.

KAPLIN
to speaker
What is it, Beth?

BETH (V.O.)
Agents 24 and 45, sir.

KALTESH
Aren’t they the ones watching the Tepish warehouse?

KAPLIN
They are.

He presses the button.

KAPLIN
to speaker
What’s going on?

BETH (V.O.)
I tracked a UIF next to them, but when I tried to contact them, the line went dead.

Kaplin looks like he is thinking for a moment.
KAPLIN
Could the UIF have killed them?

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

Kaplin thinks a moment longer. He presses the button.

KAPLIN
(to speaker)
Send 46 and 68 on a fly-by to check on their status.
(to Kaltetsh)
That should do it.

Kaltesh nods.

BETH (V.O.)
Understood, sir.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - COMMON AREAS - NIGHT

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

BETH (V.O.)
Agents 46 and 68, please report to launch bay.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - STREET

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

BETH (V.O.)
Agents 46 and 68, report to launch bay.
INT. FENMPOR CITY - ALEX’S HOUSE

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

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

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

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

She finally looks at him.

    CARLA
    Long day?

    ALEX
    He wears me out.

    CARLA
    I’m sorry.

    ALEX
    No biggie. He’s old and set in his ways.

Alex smiles at his sister. She shakes her head.

    CARLA
    Are you learning anything?

    ALEX
    Yeah, that I’ve got a lot to learn. Were you at school today?
CARLA
Yup. Going to school is really weird now. We take one of those Levi-Carts to the coast and drive the rest of the way. I’m just glad it’s not too far.

ALEX
Yeah.

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

ALEX
So how are you doing here?

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

ALEX
Yeah. At least you get to see Micah still.

CARLA
Yeah, but it’s getting weird between us.

ALEX
How?

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

ALEX
But you see him at school.

CARLA
Yeah, but I checked on going out with him on Saturday night, and it is like an act of God to get out of this place.
ALEX
There’s supposed to be a way to the beach. And you are able to get back in that way too.

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

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

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

Carla nods.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

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

INT. WAREHOUSE OFFICE - NIGHT

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

KEVIN
Who is it?

ERECH
Hector Arguellas. He’s trouble.

KEVIN
Why would he oppose the unification?

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

KEVIN
They are proud of it.

Erech turns to Kevin.

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

Kevin looks confused.

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

ERECH
Yes, I know this. Do you not know of the Cortz Sufru?
KEVIN
No, sir, I don’t. You have told me of many ranks, but never this one. Are they under the Hashakröd?

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

KEVIN
I thank you, sir.

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

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

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

KEVIN
What if they will not be controlled?

ERECH
If they will not succumb to my rule, then I will appoint someone who will.
KEVIN
But these are the leaders of the Tepish in this part of the world. If they do not accept you, how would you force their followers to?

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

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

KEVIN
Excellent, my lord Erech.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

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

INT. VEHICLE

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

CHILDRESS
What’s going on, Beth?

BETH (V.O.)
We lost communication with the Agents watching the warehouse. Need a fly-by to check on them.

CHILDRESS
We’re on our way.

VERA
This shouldn’t be too hard.

CHILDRESS
Don’t count on it.

EXT. OCEAN/LANDFALL - NIGHT

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

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

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

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

Erech enters the room and stands at the head of the table. He smiles as he looks at his guests.
ERECH
Welcome back my friends. As you know, we are here to discuss the rejoining of our order of Tepish. You eight sitting here are the head minds within this nation who claim allegiance to the philosophy of the Tepish order.

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

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

Quincy nods. When Erech continues, Quincy looks concerned.

ERECH
Moving on, we have Marcus Portergraf.

Marcus watches Erech expressionlessly. Erech continues around the table.

ERECH
Walter Reefer. Pintir Jorin, Larin-

Quincy stands, interrupting.

QUINCY
Now wait just a minute. We all have areas we control. You are not giving us our full due.
ERECH
What control? No one has boundaries. No one even knows where their area ends and another begins. It may surprise Larinkas Erofka, for example, to know that Walter Reefer’s so called area of control overlaps his by more than 90%.

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

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

HECTOR
Get on with it!

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

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - STREET - NIGHT

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

They go in the direction indicated.

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

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

CARLA
It is beautiful.

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

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

ALEX
I can’t leave. I’d have to tell David first.

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

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

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

AL
I really need to take care of some things.

ALEX
How long does it take to leave?

AL
Oh, not long really...
ALEX
Like how long is not long?

Al stops and sighs.

AL
All right. Follow me.

Al leads them through the city.

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

CARLA
Hello.

AL
I’m Al, day dispatcher.

CARLA
Al and Alex. This’ll get confusing.

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

ALEX
Thank you.

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

AL
This button opens the door.

The door swishes open. Al enters, followed by Alex and Carla. Al speaks very quickly.
Button 1, here, closes the door and takes you up. Button 2 will get you to the beach. You press the button on the outside to send the pod back down here. Got it?

Al walks out.

Alex looks at him.

Alex: Just one thing.

Al looks at him.

Alex: How do we get back?


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

Al: This button—

Al points to a red button on top of communicator.

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

He hands it over to Alex.

Alex: Thank you.

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

Carla and Alex shake their heads.

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

CARLA
You too!

Al trots away. Carla looks at Alex, excited.

CARLA
Are you ready?

ALEX
Let’s go!

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

EXT. FEMPIROR CITY - NIGHT

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

INT. POD - NIGHT

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

ALEX
Wow.

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

Alex rolls his eyes.
EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

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

INT. POD - NIGHT

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

          CARLA

All clear.

Carla presses button 2.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

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

          CARLA

That was cool!

          ALEX

I know.

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

          CARLA

Peaceful.

Alex sits next to her.

          ALEX

Yeah.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - KAPLIN’S OFFICE - NIGHT

Kaplin and Kaltetsh are still in his office. David enters.
DAVID
You called for me, Mayor Kaplin?

KAPLIN
Yes, David, have a seat.

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

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

DAVID
Thank you for considering me.

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

DAVID
All right.

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

DAVID
Ok.

KAPLIN
But last week, seven marched together against your trainee’s parents. Then at that warehouse, we hit a slew of them, and then you found that underground monorail. That’s a whole lot of Tepish in a short time.
DAVID
It’s more than I’ve found as well.

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

DAVID
Understood. So what’s the situation at this time?

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

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

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

David thinks about this for a moment.

DAVID
My opinion?

KAPLIN
That’s what I want.

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

KAPLIN
I don’t see how.
DAVID
If they are holding this meeting, and security is as high as Erech implied, we should divide our forces.

Kaplin narrows his eyes.

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

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

DAVID
Well?

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

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

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

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

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

David grimaces and then nods his head.

DAVID
When do we move?

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

DAVID
Ok.

EXT. CITY SKY - NIGHT
Childress and Vera fly in their Levi-Cart over the warehouse.

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

CHILDRESS
Well, they were taken out.

VERA
Now what?

CHILDRESS
Let’s look in the door.
EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

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

CHILDRESS
(whispered)
We have to send a message back to the city. The meeting has begun!

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

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

BETH (V.O.)

ALEX
I think I gotta go.

CARLA
You’re not an agent.

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

Carla sighs big.

CARLA
All right.

Alex presses the recall button on the communicator.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - LAUNCH BAY - NIGHT

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

GAMLING
Where’s your boy?

DAVID
I don’t know.

David pulls out a communicator.
DAVID
(to communicator)
Hey, Beth.

BETH (V.O.)
Yes?

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

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

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

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

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

DAVID (V.O.)
Thank you.

Beth smiles.

BETH
(to herself)
You’re welcome.

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

BETH
(to communicator)
Alex.
INT. FEMPIROR CITY - POD - NIGHT

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

    CARLA
    You’re in trouble.

    ALEX
    Sh!

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

    ALEX
    (to communicator)
    Yeah?

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

    ALEX
    (to communicator)
    Okay.

Alex looks at Carla.

    ALEX
    I guess I’ll see you later.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - LAUNCH BAY - NIGHT

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

    DAVID
    It’s about time.

    ALEX
    Sorry. I was on the beach.

    DAVID
    Let’s go.
Alex gets in. David moves the Levi-Cart to the tube and lets it fly.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

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

ALEX
What’s going on?

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

ALEX
(excited)
Am I going to fight?

DAVID
No.

Alex’s expression drops.

ALEX
Then why am I going?

DAVID
To observe. This is no game we play.

ALEX
This is stupid!

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

Alex crosses his arms and pouts.

ALEX
Ok.
EXT. CITY - NIGHT

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

INT. WAREHOUSE - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

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

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

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

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

Many scoffs and mutterings come at this.

QUINCY
The hierarchy? It is dead!

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

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

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

Erech smiles and beams over them all.

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

EXT. CITY SKY - NIGHT

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

INT. VEHICLE - NIGHT

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

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

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

ALEX
Oh. So where’re we going?

DAVID
You remember that house we went to last week?
ALEX
Yeah.

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

ALEX
Oh. Ok.

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

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM – NIGHT
The Tepish Overlords look shocked at Erech’s declaration for a moment. Some shake their heads. Finally, Hector laughs.

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

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

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

ERECH
(calm, sinister)
Hector, I didn’t ask if you agreed. I am telling you the way it is.
HECTOR
The way it is! Who do you think you are?

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

Erech raises his pistol.

HECTOR
You don’t have the-

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

ERECH
Does anyone else ... disagree?

The others stand silently.

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

Erech smiles.

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

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

ERECH
The two who are not appointed to these positions, I will place as Hashakröd to one of the others.
Erech looks darkly at Gin.

ERECH
Is this a problem, Gin?

GIN
No, Elrod Malnak. You are wise.

Erech smiles again.

ERECH
Excellent.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

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

GUARD
Elrod Malnak.

ERECH
What is it?

GUARD
My lord, we are under attack.

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

EXT. TEPISH SHELTER - NIGHT

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

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

TEPISH
Do you have any idea what time it is?

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

DAVID
My friend, I do.

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

DAVID
I just want to use the monorail.

TEPISH
I don’t think so.

DAVID
Oh, I do.

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

INT. TEPISH SHELTER - NIGHT

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

He clashes with David briefly. Alex watches from the doorway. Another Tepish comes out with his sword. David defends himself easily from both foes. As quick as they’d come, David takes them out.
Alex walks in. Looks at the carnage. Shakes his head.

ALEX
Yeah, I couldn’t’ve done that.

DAVID
Perhaps you’ll listen to me. Come on.

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

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

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

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

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone in the meeting hears the battle outside.

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

ERECH
Nonsense. We will leave through my monorail system underground.

GIN
Monorail?

ERECH
Surely you don’t believe I would not have an escape plan in case the Rastem were to find us.
GIN
Of course. My apologies again, Elrod Malnak.

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

Erech turns to a nearby guard.

ERECH
Be sure and hold off the Rastem while we escape.

GUARD
Yes, my lord.

INT. MONORAIL CAVERN - NIGHT
David and Alex emerge next to the monorail controls David used in 1x01.

DAVID
Here we are!

ALEX
Where?

DAVID
Wait.

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

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

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

DAVID
Well, hello again.
DRIVER
(sighing)
Where to?

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

David decks the Driver, laying him out completely.

DAVID
Come on, Alex.

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

ALEX
Where are we going?

DAVID
Hold on.

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

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

INT. WAREHOUSE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

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

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

GUARD
Yes, my lord.
The guard exits the room. Erech signals to the others.

ERECH
We’re going.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

CHILDRESS
(calling out)
There’s Erech! See if you can take him out!

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

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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

KEVIN
Run, my lord!
(to the others)
Everyone, run for the monorail!

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

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Childress sees them run out of range and scowls.

INT. MONORAIL STATION - NIGHT

David pulls up to the station and stops the cart. Several Tepish there see him, and look curious. When David jumps out, realization sets in. They draw their guns and begin firing.
David deftly blocks the bullets as Alex lays low in the cart, some shots bouncing off the cart walls. When their guns run low on ammo, David takes them out. He turns to Alex.

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

**ALEX**  
(angrily)  
Erech is the one who killed my parents.

**DAVID**
Don’t focus on that. You have too much to learn.

Alex only accepts this without a nod.

**DAVID**
Now, come on.

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

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

**KEVIN**
Where is the security?

David steps out of the shadows.

**DAVID**
I took care of them.

Erech narrows his eyes upon seeing David.

**ERECH**
I know you.

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

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

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

Erech laughs.

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

KEVIN
My lord, to the car!

ERECH
Perhaps, we will meet on another day, Rastem.

David starts running towards him.

KEVIN
(to the guards)
Kill him.

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

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

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

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

The Tepish says nothing.
DAVID

You won’t win.

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

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - KAPLIN’S OFFICE - NIGHT

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

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

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

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

DAVID
Okay.

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

Kaplin fumes visibly.

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

Kaplin is really not happy with this observation.

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

David nods.

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

KAPLIN
Of course. Go on.

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

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

KALTESH
You know, he’s right.

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

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - DAY

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

ALEX
So, that’s getting in trouble?

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

ALEX
But didn’t we do the right thing?

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

Beth walks up behind him.
BETH
He’s upset because he didn’t think of it first.

DAVID
Oh, hi Beth.

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

DAVID
Thanks?

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

DAVID
I’ll do the best I can.

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

DAVID
I can understand that.

BETH
Good. Take it easy. I’ll see you later.

DAVID
Yeah, I’ll see you.

She smiles and walks away. David watches her go. Alex looks at David. He sees David watching Beth go. David sighs.
ALEX
Hey! What’re we doing?

David looks to Alex and smiles.

DAVID
Practice!

ALEX
Aw!

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

THE END