THE FEMPIROR CHRONICLES

Episode 1x06

“The Fountain of Youth”

by

George Willson
TEASER

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

INSERT

A newspaper folded in quarters displays an advertisement within the classified ads:

Experience the world as you’ve never known it!

The Fountain of Youth

and

Unlimited Wealth

can be yours today!

Apply now!

One Night only!

8:00pm

Robert G. Newcomer Community Center

Room 8E

BACK TO SCENE

A man of about 35, CARL FRAZIER, looks up at the center from his newspaper. He is dressed in business casual. He tucks the newspaper under his arm and trots up the stars into the plain brick center.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER

A security guard looks up from a newspaper at Carl walking past. He looks at the paper again as he passes by several rooms finally settling on Room 8E. He turns the door handle and enters.
INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - ROOM 8E

Carl closes the door to look at a room full of people, some sitting, some standing. They all sit relatively silently, like the strangers they are, all vying for what they believe to be the same job.

A moment later, a door opposite the entrance opens and KEVIN KRILL, Cortz Sufru to Erech, steps out. Everyone turns to him.

KEVIN
Everyone, thank you for coming.
Please step in here for the initial interview.

Everyone gets up and shuffles into the adjoining room.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MEETING ROOM

Several tables set in the room around a lectern at the front of the room. A multitude of chairs are around the table and various pads of paper and pencils rest on the tabletops.

Kevin walks to the front of the room as everyone files in, taking a seat as they see fit, and then taking whatever seat is available, and then standing in the back of the room. Carl is one of the unlucky ones to be standing.

In the front of the room, Kevin leans down to a figure with his back to them. The figure nods his head. Kevin walks to the lectern and turns on the microphone.

KEVIN
Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of your host, I bid you welcome.

A hand goes up.

KEVIN
If you would please hold all questions until the end, we will get right to this.

The hand lowers.
KEVIN
Thank you. And now, your host for the evening: Erech Murciélago.

ERECH, the new Elrod Malnak of the Tepish Order, rises from his seat and stands behind the lectern, smiling. His face and manner exude arrogance. Modest clapping comes from the applicants.

ERECH
Thank you, Kevin. You all are here for one of two reasons. You want money or you want eternal life. But which is for you?

Kevin slips out a back door to the room.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MEETING BACK ROOM

Kevin looks to two Tepish frantically assembling envelopes labeled “Welcome Packet.” One of them looks up.

PACKER
How many?

KEVIN
Thirty-one. Do we have enough?

PACKER
I brought extras just in case. I only put together thirty.

He puts down his packets and picks up an empty glass vial labeled “Fountain of Youth.” He places it on a small table. He takes out a Nilrof and removes some blood from his arm.

He caps the needles, removes the plunger, and pours the blood into the vial. He caps the vial and holds it up.

PACKER
Thirty-one.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Carl carries his newspaper and his PACKET from the meeting through the front doors of the building.

INT. CARL’S APARTMENT - DAY

Carl enters and sets the items on a DINING ROOM TABLE. He places a telephone on the table and presses the speaker phone button. He dials a number. It rings. The voice of TOM BAILEY filters through the speaker.

    TOM (V.O.)
    Tom Bailey.

    CARL
    Tom, this is Carl.

    TOM (V.O.)
    What did you find out?

    CARL
    I have a sample of the liquid purported to give eternal life as well as a bunch of paperwork they gave to everyone.

    TOM (V.O.)
    Tell me about the paperwork.

    CARL
    Well, it’s pretty straightforward and clearly shows us what we want to know. It’s a very colorful presentation, and appears to be prepping you to sell it as a product. It even requires you to drink the sample they gave before returning.

    TOM (V.O.)
    What do you make of it?
Carl picks up the small vial. He removes the cap and sniffs of it. He grimaces.

CARL
There’s more than enough in here to do the job.

TOM (V.O.)
Is it what we suspect it is?

CARL
I believe it is. The paperwork also warns users to stay indoors until nightfall, stay away from sunlight and return after sunset, regardless of when you drink it.

TOM (V.O.)
Bring it in. I think we have enough.

EXT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

A black car moves along the road. Its windows are tinted a deep black making a look inside the vehicle impossible.

A close examination of the front, almost clear windshield shows a small label stating it is a UV-protected window.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

Inside the limousine, Kevin and Erech sit, riding. Kevin looks tired.

KEVIN
How much longer are we going to do this?

ERECH
As long as it takes. I will do whatever it takes to build our ranks. If this plan works, we should be able to expand across the country and implement it using mostly Redäl Kötz.
KEVIN
Why aren’t we using Redäl Kötz now?

ERECH
Do not question my decisions, Kevin. I have my reasons.

KEVIN
My lord Elrod Malnak, I would never question your judgment or reasons, but only offer suggestions of my own.

ERECH
Your suggestions are logical, but not right for this. I must see the results first hand and know what words work best on these humans.

KEVIN
Your decisions are wise, of course.

ERECH
The use of this one location, however, will eventually come to the attention of the Rastem. Several have fallen prey to their agents already.

KEVIN
The new Fempiror do not know of the dangers of the WFTS. It may be wise to make our base of operations more mobile. Leave a telephone contact number, perhaps.

Erech flashes Kevin an evil look.
KEVIN
Forgive me, my lord. Such decisions are well above my position.

ERECH
That they are. You are my Cortz Sufru, not a Malnak. It is not likely that this operation will last long enough to implement such an idea, however.

KEVIN
Very good, my lord.

ERECH
Now, have you received a report of how many we’ve added since this operation began.

KEVIN
After this first week, we’ve had about 2 dozen swear their allegiance. There are many who remain undecided but do as they’re told.

ERECH
That is all we need of them anyway. Fälskrüz do not need to think for themselves, and that is where all new Tepish begin. Prepare for tonight.

KEVIN
Yes, my lord.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY – BETH’S HOUSE – DAY

Beth’s house is modestly decorated with a series of antiques that would be quite normal and even modern to someone who is actually 140 years old.

KNOCK, KNOCK.
Beth crosses her living room to the door and opens it. MINDY PRATER stands behind it.

MINDY
Hi.

BETH
Hello. You’re one of the new ones, right?

MINDY
My name is Mindy Prater. I was just wondering what I’m supposed to do around here.

BETH
Come in.

Mindy enters and sits at a chair. Beth sits across from her.

BETH
Well, to start with, you have to learn about the Fempiror. That’s what you are now.

MINDY
I know that, and I’m seeing someone later about it too, but what about the meantime?

BETH
Well, going outside is out of the question. There are dangers out there besides the sun. You’ve been very lucky to not have been caught by humanity.

MINDY
Why?

BETH
You realize this will all be covered later.
MINDY
I guess, but I’m just so bored right now.

BETH
Through the years, and I’ve seen this happen, Fempiror have been captured, tortured, and killed by humans who believe we’re witches or vampires or demons or any number of other satanic myths. Who are you training with?

MINDY
Oh, he had a weird name.

BETH
You’ll realize that isn’t much of a description.

MINDY
Kal something.

BETH
Kaltetsh?

MINDY
That’s it.

BETH
You have a good teacher. He is the oldest Fempiror here. Over four hundred years old.

MINDY
Four hundred?

BETH
He is an excellent trainer, swordsman, and as the need arose, marksman as well.
MINDY
That’s all very well, but what I really want are people my own age to talk to. Is there anyone here like that?

Beth smiles.

BETH
Yes.

EXT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE - DAY
A plain brick building sits among other plain buildings. Carl walks through the front entrance. In his hand, he carries the packet from the meeting.

INT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE - FIRST FLOOR - DAY
Carl walks past a front guard who nods at him. Carl nods back and walks into an elevator.

INT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE - THIRD FLOOR - DAY
The elevator doors open. Carl walks across a plush hallway to a door labeled, “Foreign Relations.” He opens the door and enters.

INT. “FOREIGN RELATIONS” OFFICE
Carl walks up to MISS FRANKLIN, a middle-aged secretary.

CARL
Good afternoon, Miss Franklin.

MISS FRANKLIN
Good afternoon, Carl. Mr. Bailey is expecting you.

CARL
Thank you.

He walks past her desk and through an unmarked heavy door, which he closes behind him.
INT. TOM BAILEY’S OFFICE

Carl stands at the door. Across the room in a plush office chair sits TOM BAILEY. He is a middle aged man who has a no nonsense look in his eye and a face that looks like it never smiles.

TOM
Come in, Mr. Frazier. Sit down.

Carl sits in a chair in front of Tom’s desk.

TOM
You have it?

CARL
Yes, sir.

Carl passes the packet over the desk to Tom. Tom opens it and spills the contents onto his desk. He picks up the vial and holds it out.

TOM
And you’ve already taken this to analysis.

CARL
I came straight from there, sir. It is definitely the blood of a Fempiror.

TOM
Any alteration?

CARL
No sir. Pure as if it came straight out of a vein.

TOM
Damn. How many were at that meeting?

CARL
At least thirty, sir. It was well attended.
Tom presses an intercom button.

TOM
Miss Franklin.

MISS FRANKLIN (V.O.)
Yes, Mr. Bailey?

TOM
Get Henry Kaplin on the line please.

MISS FRANKLIN (V.O.)
Yes, Mr. Bailey.

Tom continues turning the blood vial in his hands.

TOM
Have you checked police reports for missing persons?

CARL
In that part of town, there has been a large increase in the number of reported missing. At least a three hundred percent increase over last year.

TOM
Three hundred percent! How long has the ad been running?

CARL
According to the paper, about a week.

TOM
They move fast.

The intercom on Tom’s desk beeps. He presses the open channel button.

MISS FRANKLIN (V.O.)
Mr. Bailey, I have Henry Kaplin on the line.
On cue, Tom’s phone rings. He picks it up.

TOM
Mr. Kaplin? Tom Bailey here from the United States Agency for Empiror Relations. We have a big problem.

END OF ACT ONE
EXT. WAREHOUSE COMPLEX - DAY

The limousine pulls up to the side of a large warehouse complex. The warehouse they are pulling into is linked to several others by covered walkways.

A garage door opens and the limousine pulls in.

INT. WAREHOUSE COMPLEX - DAY

The limousine pulls to a halt inside a small garage. Erech and Kevin exit the vehicle. They walk across the short distance to a door.

INT. ERECH’S OFFICE

Erech opens a door that blends into the wall of his office. He and Kevin enter. He closes the door which seems to disappear into the décor of the room.

Waiting for them in the room are GIN FRINGRA (Kurvatz Malnak), LORNDIS EROFKA (Morgad Malnak), and MARCUS PORTERGRAF (Triver Shradna Tra). Erech stands before them.

ERECH
Gin. Lorndis. I presume your Cortz Sufru are awaiting your return outside this office.

GIN
Of course, Elrod Malnak.

ERECH
Excellent. A Malnak is hardly complete without his Cortz Sufru. They are your protection.

LORNDIS
Yes, my lord.
ERECH
Mr. Portergraf, I presume you have your Haskakröd well under control on this operation?

MARCUS
Yes, my lord. I have one of my Hashakröd here overseeing his three Kepinürsk to ensure this is running smoothly. Their Redäl Kötz are evaluating the new Fälskrüz for training opportunities.

ERECH
My Cortz Sufru tells me we have only secured thirty new Fälskrüz for our army.

MARCUS
Those are the ones who have made a formal declaration of loyalty. Many are angry.

ERECH
Good. Are we going to send them home to make up their minds?

MARCUS
My lord?

ERECH
Our philosophy is to allow these people to experience the oppression of humanity. This makes them angry. Angry Tepish get things done.

GIN
We have never released new converts.
ERECH
Are you Rastem now? Do we coddle new people? No! We are the Tepish, and we want these people to suffer, and discover we are a better alternative to that hell of a life.

LORNDIS
This is not how we have done before.

ERECH
But this is how it is supposed to be done.

An uncomfortable silence settles over the room. Erech stands.

ERECH
Triver Shradna Tra, please show me your progress here.

MARCUS
Of course, Lord Elrod Malnak.

Marcus exits the room. Gin, Lorndis, Erech, and Kevin follow.

INT. TEPISH CENTRAL WAREHOUSE - DAY

A large open warehouse containing multiple bunk beds along the walls. A group of tables stand in one portion with the packet materials laid out all over them.

There is a section where it appears people are recorded and the information filed in several cabinets near this area.

Most central are a group of reclining chairs and blood machines. Several TEPISH are sitting at these machines giving blood. Erech surveys the operation. Marcus and the other Malnak stand behind him. The CORTZ SUFRU of the other Malnak also stand with them.

QUINCY LORNESON, a Hashakröd, watches over the operations. A man runs up to him.
FRED
Hashakröd, this is the final
drawing we can have today.
Everyone is spent.

QUINCY
Very well, Kepinürsk. Have those
who gave rest for tonight.

FRED
Yes, Hashakröd.

Erech walks up behind Quincy.

ERECH
Hashakröd Quincy, everything
seems to be running smoothly.

Quincy turns to him, surprised. He kneels.

QUINCY
My lord Elrod Malnak.

ERECH
Rise, my friend. Where are those
who refuse to give allegiance?

QUINCY
Over here.

Quincy leads Erech to a group of people sitting on the floor in
a corner of the warehouse.

QUINCY
They aren’t giving any trouble,
but they are also of no use to
us in the field.

ERECH
I want you to set them free.

QUINCY
My lord, if we release them, the
Rastem may find them first.
ERECH
It is of no consequence. As you point out, they are of no use to us. We should find out where they live and deliver them home personally. That will help to avoid the WFTS. Also supply them with a telephone number to call when they realize their lives are hopeless without us.

QUINCY
My lord, is this wise?

Erech reels on him.

ERECH
Are you questioning my judgment?

Quincy cowers.

QUINCY
No, my lord.

ERECH
Do you question the Tepish ideals?

QUINCY
No, my lord.

ERECH
Are you a human lover?

QUINCY
No, my lord. I was beaten. Left for dead in the sun.

ERECH
We are achieving a piece of the Tepish ideal here. These people will help us to transmute humanity. But before they are of use to us, they must hate humanity first. This will not happen until they are persecuted.
Quincy looks to Marcus.

MARCUS
You will do as your lord
commands. No one has the
authority to countermand him.

ERECH
If you will not obey, what use
are you to me?

QUINCY
Forgive me, my lord.

ERECH
I can replace you more easily
as the days wear onward. You
know this.

QUINCY
Yes, my lord.

ERECH
Carry out my orders.

QUINCY
Yes, my lord.

Erech turns and leaves followed by Gin and Lorndis. Marcus
stands over Quincy.

MARCUS
I will not be made a fool of,
Quincy. You may well find
yourself as a Fälskrüz if this
continues.

Quincy glares at him. He nods. Marcus walks away. Quincy turns
to the crowd sitting.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Carl Frazier walks along the beach to a pod that floats along
the surface of the ocean towards the beach. Carl stands in front
of the landing site for the pod. He looks around. No one to be
seen.
The door swishes open. Carl steps inside. The door swishes closed.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - DAY

Beth walks through the city with Mindy at her heels. The city is quiet. Mindy looks around.

MINDY
Where is everyone?

BETH
Some of them are still asleep. It may be late afternoon, but for us, staying out too late means you’re up till noon.

MINDY
Oh.

BETH
A lot of people are just getting up and ready for tonight.

MINDY
That’ll take some getting used to.

BETH
Not as long as you think.

They reach a small house: Alex and Carla Smith’s. Beth presses buzzer.

MINDY
So who is this?

BETH
Someone your age.

The door opens. CARLA SMITH looks at the pair.

CARLA
Hi, Beth.
BETH
Carla, this is Mindy.

CARLA
Come in.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - SMITH HOUSE

Carla serves drinks to Beth and Mindy with one for herself.

MINDY
You’re lucky to still be normal.

CARLA
Sort of. My parents were Fempiror, and I’ll get old while Alex stays young. I have mixed feelings about it. I’m kind of stuck here.

MINDY
But not forever.

Carla nods. Beth stands.

BETH
I hate to run out so quickly, but I have some things to do before work tonight. Are you going to be all right, Mindy?

MINDY
Yes, thank you.

Beth exits. Carla walks her out.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - STREET

Carla walks outside with Beth. Beth turns to her.

BETH
I know you’re from different worlds, but she’s lonely.
CARLA
I’ll try.

BETH
Thank you.

Carla nods. She enters the house.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY – SMITH HOUSE

Carla walks back to Mindy, who is staring off blankly. Carla sits.

CARLA
So.

Mindy looks at her.

MINDY
Sorry.

CARLA
It’s all right. Are you from around here?

MINDY
I grew up in the city, if that’s what you mean.

CARLA
Yeah. Me too.

MINDY
I know I didn’t run with the right crowds. Little trouble maker. Probably deserved what I got.

CARLA
From what I’ve seen, no one deserves this.
MINDY
I did. I stole a lot. Made my living off of rich people. I was homeless when that guy found me.

CARLA
Why are you telling me this?

MINDY
I don’t know! I just feel like I need to talk to someone. That lady led me here. I’m sorry if I bothered you.

Mindy walks to the door. Carla chases her.

CARLA
Wait. I’m sorry.

Mindy doesn’t look at her.

MINDY
I screwed up my life. And now I don’t know if it’s gotten worse or better. I have a place to live. I have clothes I can wear. I even have food I can eat. This place is heaven to me. I know there is something to this Femporor thing that I don’t understand yet. I’ve heard it’s like a curse of some sort, but not right now...

Mindy looks at Carla, tears in her eyes.

...not to me. Right now, this is the best thing that ever happened to me.
INT. FEMPIROR CITY – KAPLIN’S OFFICE

David and Carl sit in front of Kaplin’s desk. David and Kaplin both listen to Carl.

CARL
After a week under surveillance, we had a man go in there to find out what was going on. He got a vial of Fempior blood and instructions to drink it and come back.

KAPLIN
Dr. Fenrik had a look at it as well as their people, and it looks to be 100% pure.

DAVID
So Erech isn’t wasting any time.

KAPLIN
Apparently not.

DAVID
What do you want me to do?

KAPLIN
Go to that evening interview. Swords are out, so I need someone proficient in hand to hand, not to mention someone well versed in the Tepish. Congrats. We’ll track you on your communicator.

DAVID
No problem, sir. You mind if I take Alex with me?

KAPLIN
Well, he’s your responsibility. I leave it to you.

Carl hands David the Welcome Packet.
CARL
Here’s what our agent got this morning.

DAVID
I’ll tuck it under my arm and look lost.

KAPLIN
That’s the spirit. I’ll have Beth maintain radio silence until we hear from you.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - SMITH HOUSE - DUSK

Carla and Mindy sit on the couch in the living area.

MINDY
You still go to the same school? How?

CARLA
Levi-cart. Those things make some really good time.

MINDY
No kidding. I’m just surprised they’re going to so much trouble.

CARLA
I never really thought about it before. I wonder why they would.

ALEX (O.S.)
Because they feel responsible for us.

Mindy looks over to see Alex entering the room in full Rastem garb, sword included. She gazes at him, as if enraptured.
ALEX
It’s part of the Rastem code. Since it’s their mission to protect you from the Tepish, and the Tepish got you -- or rather, me -- they feel obligated to help out in any way possible.

Carla nods. Alex looks over to see Mindy staring. He looks at her for a moment.

ALEX
Hi.

Mindy shakes off the daze. She stands.

MINDY
Oh, hi. I’m Mindy. Prater.

Alex holds his hand out for a handshake.

ALEX
Alex Smith.

He pauses as their hands touch. He looks at her.

ALEX
When?

MINDY
Middle of September.

ALEX
October.

They pause for a long moment, looking at each other.

CARLA
Um, Alex?

Alex snaps to, and looks to Carla.

CARLA
What’s with the getup?

Mindy looks him over.
MINDY
Yeah, you look like those guys who found me.

ALEX
This is how a Rastem dresses. David’s got a job, and I’m going. I hate being cooped up in here.

MINDY
I don’t mind it. I’ve been out there, and I’m not interested in going back.

ALEX
Sure, you say that now.

The door bell sounds. Alex walks to it and opens the door. David stands there.

DAVID
You ready?

Mindy looks over.

MINDY
Hey, it’s David, right?

DAVID
Hello, Mindy. Holding up all right?

MINDY
Sure.

DAVID
I’d love to chat, but we’ve got to be somewhere.

Alex makes to walk out, but David stops him.

DAVID
No sword.
ALEX
What? Why?

DAVID
Can’t be armed this time. Keep the gauntlets, but the sword stays.

ALEX
All right.

Alex removes the scabbard and hands it off to Carla.

CARLA
For me? Thanks!

ALEX
Not for keeps!

DAVID
Let’s go. Nice seeing you again.

MINDY
You too.

David closes the door behind them. Mindy turns to Carla.

MINDY
How old is your brother?

CARLA
Seventeen.

MINDY
Nice.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - LAUNCH BAY - NIGHT

David and Alex enter the launch bay.

DAVID
One cart to go, Gamling.

GAMLING
Ready to go.
A vehicle drives up and parks in front of them. David gets in to drive, and Alex rides shotgun.

IN THE CAR

Alex looks to David.

    ALEX
    So where are we going?

    DAVID
    Into the fire.

David blasts into the tube.

IN THE TUBE

The Levi-cart rides the side Levi-panels at high speed bursting out into the dusk light over the ocean.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

David and Alex pull up next to the curb. The community center is relatively quiet except for a steady light trickle of people walking in.

David and Alex get out of the car and walk along the sidewalk towards the entrance. David carries the packet.

ALEX
So all of these people are like us?

DAVID
That’s my assumption.

ALEX
What are we going to do?

DAVID
Keep our mouths closed and listen.

Alex almost says something else, but he closes his mouth. They enter the center.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

David and Alex follow a thin line of people through Room 8E and into the Meeting Room, which is still set up how it was before. This time, however, no one is sitting. Most of them look impatient, tapping their feet, drumming their fingers.

David and Alex walks through the crowd of around 25 people.

MAN 1
Did you try going outside afterward? What the hell?

WOMAN 1
Whatever they gave us made me sick. I want to know what it was.
MAN 2
Did it get a lot hotter this afternoon?

WOMAN 2
That stuff made me a lot stronger. I lifted up all kinds of stuff this afternoon.

David and Alex look at each other, concerned.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - BACK OF MEETING ROOM - NIGHT
Kevin looks through the back door of the room at the crowd.

KEVIN
It’s encouraging. This is working perfectly.

Kevin steps away from the door. Erech looks through the opening at the crowd.

ERECH
Yes, excellent. There must be almost thirty of them who came back.

KEVIN
Of course, most of them don’t look happy.

ERECH
Of course not. Most people aren’t.

Erech looks back through the opening.

ERECH
Well, how about that? Kevin, I believe we have some trouble. Look towards the middle.

Erech steps away from the door, and Kevin looks out.
Kevin sees David and Alex in the center of it all just looking around.

KEVIN
What do you want to do?

ERECH
Nothing yet. I want to know why they’re here.

KEVIN
You know it was inevitable.

ERECH
Of course.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

David and Alex settle into chairs near the back behind some relatively tall people. Erech enters the room from the side door followed by Kevin and stands behind the podium.

ERECH
Welcome friends. Welcome to immortality.

MAN IN CROWD
What have you done to us?

The crowd roars with agreement. Erech throws up his hands to calm them, but they will not be calmed.

ERECH
I gave you immortality. Just what you came for. But now, you are all outcasts. Humanity will reject you, but you have hope. You can join my people, the Tepish. There, you will find your life and riches.

MAN IN CROWD
That’s crazy. We wanted to make money. Not join some cult. Change me back.
ERECH
I can’t. No one can.

MAN IN CROWD
I’ll find someone.

He walks toward the door.

ERECH
You are free to leave, of course, but where will you go. Once your family and friends discover your secret, they will turn on you. You’ll be rejected for freaks. You will soon learn that your only home is with us.

MAN IN CROWD
You lied to us.

ERECH
So?

The doors burst open in the back and several Tepish enter. They are unarmed, but look very strong.

ERECH
And now, if you’ll all follow my associates, I’ll show you to your new home. If you want to leave, feel free.

Everyone stands and moves toward the open door. Alex turns to David.

ALEX
What about the-

DAVID
Sh!
EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

A large CATTLE TRAILER, such as those used for transporting military trainees, is parked in front of the building. The people are guided on board this truck. David and Alex follow right along with them.

The Tepish close the trailer door. The semi tractor hisses and moves down the street.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Beth watches as the blue dots disappear and the outlined image of the truck containing the white identifying dots of David and Alex. She presses a button on her panel.

BETH
Beth to Kaplin.

KAPLIN (V.O.)
What is it, Beth?

BETH
David is now moving across the city very quickly. I haven’t heard anything from him yet.

KAPLIN (V.O.)
Continue to maintain radio silence. He must not be disturbed.

BETH
Yes, sir.

Beth sits back and watches David’s indicator move through the city.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

The Tractor-trailer travels down the road.
INT. CATTLE TRAILER - NIGHT

The new transmutatees ride silently, sitting on benches or standing against the wall of the trailer. Kevin Krill walks down the center of the trailer towards the back.

David and Alex stand together at the back of the trailer.

ALEX
(whispers)
What are we going to do when we get there?

DAVID
(whispers)
Improvise. I can’t really plan for anything. Once we stop, Kaplin will probably send someone out to find out what’s going on. Until then, we just keep a low profile.

Alex nods. He turns to see Kevin walking towards them.

ALEX
Someone’s coming.

David turns. He grimaces. Kevin stops in front of them.

KEVIN
David Taylor. Nice to see you again.

DAVID
I don’t believe we’ve been formally introduced, but you’re Erech’s Cortz Sufru, if I’m not mistaken.

KEVIN
That’s correct. My name isn’t important, though. Hand over your communicators.

DAVID
Our what?
KEVIN
Don’t toy with me. Erech knows we’re being tracked.

DAVID
Sorry.

KEVIN
I wouldn’t want to make a mess of you in here.

DAVID
That’s all right. You couldn’t.

KEVIN
Then what about him?

Kevin moves quickly and grabs Alex by the throat. David moves to a defensive position. Kevin squeezes and Alex coughs, choking.

KEVIN
You can kill me if you want, but I’ll take him out too. Your communicator. Now.

David looks at Kevin for a moment. Kevin squeezes a bit harder. Alex turns red.

DAVID
All right.

David reaches into his jacket and produces his communicator. He hands it to Kevin.

DAVID
There.

KEVIN
His, too.

David reaches over to Alex and takes Alex’s communicator out of his jacket. He gives it to Kevin who immediately releases Alex and steps back away from them.
KEVIN
That was pretty stupid of your leader to send someone we know.

DAVID
We’ll see.

KEVIN
And you won’t be needing these.

Kevin tosses the communicators out the holes in the side of the cattle trailer.

INT. FEMALEM IR CITY - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The white dots disappear. Beth sits up in her chair. She presses a few buttons on her panel. Nothing comes up on her screen. She presses the communication button.

BETH
Beth to Kaplin. We just lost David’s signal.

KAPLIN (V.O.)
Send someone to his last known location. Immediately.

BETH
Yes, sir.

Beth looks back at the screen, as if hoping the signal will return.

END OF ACT THREE
EXT. WAREHOUSE COMPLEX - NIGHT

The Cattle Truck enters the parking area of the warehouse. The garage door opens and the truck pulls inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE COMPLEX - NIGHT

The Cattle Truck pulls into the warehouse. The garage door closes behind it. The door to the trailer opens.

David and Alex step out followed closely by Kevin. They walk across the complex amidst looks from the Tepish personnel there. They pass by Tepish who are lying on tables. Blood is being drawn. David looks at Alex.

DAVID
You have no idea how illegal this is.

They arrive at a door in a closed off section of the warehouse. Kevin knocks.

INT. ERECH’S OFFICE - NIGHT

Erech sits at his desk, waiting. He has a large smile on his face.

ERECH
Come in.

The door opens and David, Alex, and Kevin enter. Erech stands.

ERECH
Ah, my dear friend David, the Rastem. I’ve been expecting you.

DAVID
I’ll bet.
EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

The smashed remains of David’s and Alex’s communicators lie on the street. A hand reaches down and picks up a few pieces. It is Childress.

Childress stands. Vera stands next to him, the Levi-Cart in the background. He takes his own communicator in his hand.

CHILDRESS
Hey, Beth.

BETH (V.O.)
I read you.

CHILDRESS
I found their communicators. They were found out.

BETH (V.O.)
Understood. Stand-by.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Beth presses a button on her panel.

BETH
Mayor Kaplin, have you been monitoring?

KAPLIN (V.O.)
I have. Any luck on following the vehicle?

BETH
No sir. It entered an heavily traveled intersection, and I couldn’t follow it.

KAPLIN (V.O.)
Very well. Monitor all blue activity along the last known path of the signal. Send every one available to those points to investigate.
BETH
Yes, sir.

KAPLIN (V.O.)
We just need to hope they didn’t change directions.

INT. WAREHOUSE COMPLEX – ERECH’S OFFICE – NIGHT

Erech stands before David and Alex as before.

ERECH
Now, why would Henry Kaplin send in someone that would be familiar to me? Hm? Are you supposed to be a spy?

DAVID
I was sent to determine the situation. I believe I succeeded.

Erech laughs.

ERECH
But you won’t be able to report it.

DAVID
No? What if I kill you first, throw the Tepish back into their anarchistic state, and then report?

ERECH
Then you’ll die before you can leave and fail.

DAVID
What if my mission were to kill you at any cost? Then I succeed. After all, I was brought right to you.

Erech’s eyes narrow.
ERECH
But you are unarmed.

DAVID
How is that a problem?

David swings his fist behind him, and break Kevin’s nose. Kevin bends over momentarily holding his nose. David grabs Kevin’s curved, rapier-style sword and then throws him through the wall of the office, crashing into the warehouse proper.

David turns to Erech who pulls an old style rapier sword out of his desk. This sword has a small button at the top of the rubber-looking hilt where the blade connects.

Alex backs off to one side. David circles the desk moving toward Erech, who stands defensively.

ERECH
I don’t recommend attacking me. My sword is a little unusual.

DAVID
Why should I care about how your sword is made?

Erech presses the button. Sparks wrap around his blade.

ERECH
Because it has a bonus feature.

Erech attacks. David blocks, but the electricity from Erech’s blade throws him back against the wall of the office. David looks at Erech’s sword in wonder.

ERECH
That electricity is some wicked stuff. Isn’t it?

Erech swings again. David rolls away from him.

DAVID
Alex! Run outside!

ALEX
Outside?
DAVID
Just do it!

Alex ducks out the hole left by Kevin. David backs away from Erech who approaches confidently. He also moves through the hole Kevin left. As he moves, he takes off his belt and wraps it around the hilt of Kevin’s sword.

ERECH
That won’t help.

DAVID
Let’s find out.

Erech slashes. David blocks with the sword. Sparks crackle around David’s sword, but he is unaffected.

DAVID
Looks like the game is on.

A fierce duel begins. As the Tepish, new and old, look on in wonder, David and Erech exchange hits. Sparks fly everywhere as the current moves from Erech’s sword to David’s.

Slowly, with hit after hit, David and Erech find themselves in the center of the warehouse. Erech suddenly stops and back away.

ERECH
Now, you’re finished.

DAVID
Am I?

ERECH
Look around you.

David looks around. The Tepish have formed a circle around the combatants completely closing David in and grossly outnumbering him. Erech presses the button on his sword. The sparks stop.

ERECH
Hold him.

Several Tepish step forward. David swings around with his sword, but they come in from all sides, and several are able to hold him. His sword is taken from him. A Tepish hands it to Erech.
ERECH
I knew you’d find us. In fact, I counted on it. When the Rastem find you, you’ll be beaten and bruised, but not dead. Not yet, anyway. You see, I want you to deliver a message. I know I don’t have to ask – you’ll do it anyway. Surrounding you at this moment are my Tepish. Maybe they won’t all join me right away, but they’ll come. Our numbers are growing. Soon, our numbers will be what they were when you were but a new Fempiror.

DAVID
And you weren’t even born.

ERECH
True, true. However, it was the dream of my mentor to restore the order, and I have completed it.

DAVID
And how many of these follow you so loyally that they would stop me from killing you?

ERECH
Good-bye, David. When we next meet, you will not live.

Erech backs away. The circle closes behind him. Several Tepish close in on David.

ERECH (O.S.)
Remember. Hurt him, don’t kill him.

The Tepish punch David repeatedly.

Erech approaches Kevin. Kevin kneels, head lowered.
ERECH
You let him beat you. I had to defend myself.

KEVIN
Forgive, my lord Elrod Malnak.

ERECH
Who would you ask for forgiveness had I died? You almost killed me.

KEVIN
I'm sorry, my lord.

ERECH
Why should I forgive you? Would Lorndis forgive you? Would the great Vladimir forgive you?

Kevin remains silent.

ERECH
Speak!

KEVIN
No, my lord.

Erech places the blade of his sword next to Kevin's neck.

ERECH
The times being how they are, though, you are the only one I can trust. Rise.

Kevin rises to his feet.

KEVIN
Thank you, my lord. You wise and ki-

Erech spins. He presses the button on his sword. It sparks to life as he plunges it into Kevin's shoulder. It emerges out his back. Kevin screams and jerks from the electricity and falls to the ground unconscious as Erech withdraws the blade.
ERECH
But I will find another.

Erech looks to the torture scene in the center of the warehouse.

ERECH
Tepish! Let’s go.

Erech walks toward the limousine still waiting for him. The Tepish load the Cattle Truck.

A group of ten Fempiror do not board the truck. Erech turns to them.

ERECH
You wish to stay?

FEMPIROR
We don’t know.

ERECH
Don’t be afraid. Humanity is your enemy now. If you remain in the world of daylight, you will learn this. They will try to kill you. The choice is yours. But if you don’t come now, I cannot guarantee when we will find you again. You will be safe with us.

They look at those in the truck. Those inside gesture for them to hurry. Nine of them hurry aboard. The last one, a WOMAN, remains.

ERECH
Suit yourself.

Erech gets in the limo and closes the door. The garage door in front of the vehicles opens. They drive out.

The woman gets up and runs over the David, who is lying on the floor, unconscious. She rolls him over. He is just as Erech promised: bruised and bloody.
A door opens in the front of the warehouse. Alex, Childress, and Vera run in.

ALEX
David!

Alex runs over to David and kneels beside him. He looks up at the woman.

ALEX
Who are you?

LANA
Lana Murphy. I didn’t want to go with them.

CHILDRESS
What did they do to him?

LANA
The leader wanted him beaten. That’s what they did.

VERA
Hey, Childress.

Childress turns to Vera, who kneels beside Kevin.

VERA
This one’s still alive.

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - HOSPITAL - DAY

David opens his eyes. He looks around. Alex stands next to his bed.

ALEX
I knew you’d be ok?

DAVID
Word of advice: try not to get beaten by a hundred Tepish.

ALEX
I’ll keep that in mind.
DAVID
How long has it been?

ALEX
About six hours. Erech and the Tepish were gone before we got there. There was one woman who stayed behind, and a little surprise.

DAVID
Surprise?

INT. FEMPIROR CITY - HOSPITAL - SECURE WING - DAY

David walks (or rather, hobbles) with Alex’s support to a window beyond which Kevin Krill lies in bed with an IV fed into his arm. His shoulder is heavily bandaged, and he sleeps. David looks pleasantly surprised.

DAVID
That’s not a little surprise...

As Kevin sleeps, his eyes flicker in REM sleep. They snap open.

END OF EPISODE