

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 stairs 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 straight forward 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 Kötzt.

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 Sufu, 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 enter 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

Kaltesh?

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,
swordsmen, 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.

TOM
Put him through.

On cue, Tom's phone rings. He picks it up.

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

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

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 Kötzt 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 LORNESEON, 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 transmutate 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 Fempiror 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.

MINDY

...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 Fempiror 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 transmutes 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 Sufuru, 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. FEMPIROR 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

ACT FOUR

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