

MILLENIUM
S01E01: "Welcome to the Revolution"

Screenplay by

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INT/EXT. FORT LARIAT GATE- NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

A large fort lies in the front of a massive wall that extends into the distance. Crickets chirp. A shaded grove extends past the road in front of the fort, blending into the darkness.

At the entrance, two SOLDIERS stand guard. The soldiers are in bulky green and grey military armor, wearing ovular helmets with thick visors that cover their faces. They both hold boxy assault rifles. SOLDIER 1 checks his watch and motions to the other soldier. The two then go into a dirty grey room in the side of the fort.

SOLDIER 2 is in the room, wearing the same armor but without the helmet, resting in a chair. Patchy beard, scruffy hair. Soldier 1 bumps him on the shoulder.

SOLDER 1

You're up.

Soldier 2 opens his eyes, annoyed, and rubs his temple.

SOLDIER 2

By Oryck, shit, what time is it?

SOLDIER 1

12:30. You two are out 'til morning.

Soldier 2 groans, stands up and puts on his helmet. He walks over to SOLDIER 3, who is asleep in a chair nearby. Soldier 2 kicks Soldier 3 awake. Soldier 3 jolts.

SOLDIER 2

C'mon, time to go.

Soldier 3 gets up and follows him out sluggishly.

Soldiers 2 and 3 position themselves at the gate.

SOLDIER 3

Gods, I can't believe they have us out this late. Like what the hell is gonna happen?

SOLDIER 2

Well, the MRF could happen.

SOLDIER 3

(chuckling)

Yeah, right. Those guys haven't

attacked anyone in months. I can't even believe that Orion considers them a big enough threat for a war.

SOLDIER 2
Oh yeah, because the Scarring wasn't enough for war.

SOLDIER 3
(snickers)
The Scarring was an accident. Everyone knows that.

Soldier 2 gets angry and grabs Soldier 3's arm.

SOLDIER 2
Hey. My dad died in the Scarring, you dick.

SOLDIER 3
(annoyed)
Gods, sorry man.

Soldier 3 pulls away and Soldier 2 turns his back to Soldier 3. Awkward silence fills the air.

SOLDIER 3
So... Got a wife? Kids?

SOLDIER 2
I've got two.

SOLDIER 3
Two wives?

SOLDIER 2
Kids. Two girls.

SOLDIER 3
(chuckling)
Yikes. That sounds like hell.

SOLDIER 2
They're great. Little cupcakes, I call them. I left to join the army when they were only 4. They should be 8 by the time I get back. I can't wait to see them again.

Soldier 2's voice cracks. As he is speaking, though, Soldier 3 notices something in the distance before a bullet whizzes

through the air and silently strikes him in the head. Soldier 2 doesn't notice at first. He then notices the silence and turns to see Soldier 3's dead body. Soldier 2 panics.

SOLDIER 2

Tom? Tom!

Soldier 2 frantically looks out to the darkness and the trees, and his breathing increases. He panics and runs into the fort, a wide open-air courtyard filled with weapons and tables.

SOLDIER 2

Help! Hel-!

He's cut off when he is downed with a shot to the leg.

EXT. ROAD- NIGHT

Two figures approach the fort; a man with orange hair wearing an orange FOX mask, and a woman with blond hair wearing a blue BIRD mask. The BIRD holds a smoking pistol in her hand. The FOX has two silver bracers on his wrists, and are both donned in red jackets and blue scarves. They turn to each other.

FOX

Nice shot.

BIRD

Thanks. You think they heard that?

An alarm starts blaring. Hurried voices come from inside the fort. Fox and Bird turn to the alarm, and then back to each other.

FOX

Yeah, I think so.

Fox pulls out a walkie-talkie and clicks it on.

FOX

The alarm's been triggered.

INTERCUT WITH

EXT. FOREST- NIGHT

In the forest, dozens of people are crouched down in the woods, weapons in hand, ready to strike: The MRF. In the front and center of the group lays MARKUS, a man with curly

brown hair except for a clump of white at the front, dead focused on the fort in front of them, face obscured by the darkness. He, like the rest of the revolutionaries, wears a red combat jacket adorned with gold buttons and a blue scarf. He also holds a walkie-talkie.

FOX (V.O.)

Permission to move onto plan B.

Markus brings the walkie up to his mouth and talks slowly but with determination.

MARKUS

Permission granted. Give 'em hell.

EXT. ROAD- NIGHT

Fox clicks off the walkie and turns to Bird, pumping his fists enthusiastically.

FOX

We got it. Finally, he goes with my plan.

BIRD

Wow. How'd you pull that off?

FOX

I like to think it's my indomitable charm.

BIRD

Ugh.

Bird shakes her head with a mix of annoyance and amusement. Fox clicks on his walkie again.

FOX

Alright Eris, we're fast-tracking. You got the bomb set up?

EXT. FORT LARIAT- NIGHT

Eris HALE, a wiry woman with dark green hair and wearing a grey BEAR mask, kneels atop the ramparts of the fort, out of sight of the guards rushing around the grounds below. She looks to her left, where an explosive charge sticks to a wall. She also holds a walkie, and speaks into it.

ERIS

Yep, I'm ready.

EXT. ROAD- NIGHT

Fox paces around the road.

FOX

Good. Wait for the signal.

The walkie clicks as Fox turns it off. He then turns to Bird.

FOX

Ok, get into position.

Bird nods. The two then split apart and disappear into the darkness.

EXT. FORT LARIAT- NIGHT

In the courtyard of the fort, dozens of soldiers gather and point their guns to the gate and into the darkness. A COMMANDER stands behind the soldiers, adorned in medals and gratuitous garnishes on his armor. He has no helmet. His face is worn and scarred. He lifts his arm up and hangs it in the air.

COMMANDER

All ready on my command!

The soldiers stand frozen, waiting with baited breath. Some of them are shaking. They look to the woods, but the woods are still. The Commander looks around. He looks back out into the darkness. He's begun to sweat. Beat. He then sees a small rustle in the bushes. He thrusts his arm down.

COMMANDER

Fire!

Bullets whizz through the trees as the soldiers unload into the forest. Other than the screech of bullets striking wood, nothing comes from the forest. No screams, blood, nothing. The Commander lifts his arm back up.

COMMANDER

Hold!

The soldiers stop firing. The fort goes silent again except for the sounds of bullet shells hitting the floor. The Commander looks back out into the darkness.

CUT TO

EXT. FOREST- NIGHT

Fox, shaded in darkness, speaks quietly into his walkie. His mouth shows for a brief moment, smiling mischievously.

FOX

And...Go.

CUT TO

EXT. FORT LARIAT- CONTINUOUS

The bomb goes off and smoke plumes into the air. The Commander and the soldiers look up, and all hell breaks loose. Soldiers begin shouting and running as they try to pinpoint where the explosion came from. The Commander looks back into the forest frantically, before a bullet strikes him square in the forehead and he collapses.

From the trees, dozens of revolutionaries charge towards the fort, yelling with their weapons drawn in a blur of red and blue. Their armaments are a mix of martial weapons, guns, and blades. Markus leads the charge, with Fox and Bird joining as well.

The confused soldiers fumble and try to stop the onslaught, but are only able to gun down a few people. The MRF makes it into the fort and begin fighting. Unable to shoot without hitting their brothers, the soldiers pull out swords and batons. Markus unsheathes a LONGSWORD from his side and starts cutting down soldiers. He fights with a dangerous intensity.

Fox pulls out two MESSERS and mows through the soldiers. He then throws one blade at another soldier, who dodges and the long, knifelike blade flies off into the distance. Now one weapon down, Fox bobs and weaves through the soldiers, cutting through them with short, jerky slices as he moves like liquid between the blades swinging at him. He spins around and locks swords with another soldier.

Fox then extends his empty hand, and the bracer GLOWS and hums. In just a few moments, his sword BOOMERANGS back towards him and he catches the handle. Fox jams the blade into the confused soldier's neck.

Meanwhile, Bird has pulled out a second pistol, jumping around acrobatically and shooting soldiers with ease. She then lowers her guns to her hips and connects BAYONETS to them, proceeding to slash and stab the soldiers. One of the guards knocks her mask off, and we see her face. She has soft

features, but her green eyes are fierce and aggressive. She blocks the guards sword with one bayonet and plunges the other into the guards throat.

Eris stands up and pulls out a long silver NODACHI that gleams in the moonlight. She jumps down and lands onto an unsuspecting soldier, her massive curved blade stabbing through him. Eris hops off.

She spins her blade clean through the heads of two guards coming straight at her, then spins it behind her and stabs another one through the chest. A group surrounds her. She holds onto the end of her blade, and with one quick motion, twirls in a circle. The sword cuts through all of the guards cleanly, leaving a ring of bodies around her.

The fort has become a bloodbath. Soon enough, all of the soldiers are dead except one. Soldier 2, who survived his shot to the leg and is trying to crawl away. His helmet is off, and we see the fear on his face. Many MRF fighters are dead as well. Fox kneels down next to a dead MRF soldier and takes off his mask, revealing his mousy face and freckles. He closes his eyes.

FOX

I'm sorry brother. You sleep with the
Apostle now.

Fox notices Markus walking through the battlefield.

FOX

Markus?

Markus walks to the crawling Soldier 2 and stops him by standing on his leg. Soldier 2 yelps and turns to face him, finally showing Markus' face. He has angular features, piercing blue eyes, and a scar on his left cheek. Soldier 2 raises his shaky arms in surrender.

SOLDIER 2

Pl-please, I have a family! Don't hurt
me, show mercy!

Markus doesn't listen, and points a gun in between Soldier 2's eyes.

MARKUS

Tell that to the dead.

Soldier 2 gasps. Markus shoots the gun. CUT TO BLACK

INT. CASS'S LIVING ROOM- CONTINUOUS

A news bulletin flashes on a grimy television screen: 'BREAKING NEWS'. The bulletin fades and is replaced by a NEWSCASTER speaking at a desk.

NEWSCASTER
Breaking news, last night the
Millenium Revolutionary Front attacked
the local Eyoni-controlled Fort
Lariat...

Footage of the fort earlier in the day fades onto screen.

NEWSCASTER
..And successfully captured it. Local
officials are currently planning on
how best to recapture the fort.

Live footage of Eyoni guards fades onto the screen. They are hustling around in a local police station.

POV: LIVING ROOM

The living room is small and dirty. Spackled daylight filters through the windows. A small, dusty couch rests against a wall, and a TV sits on the other side. CASSIA "Cass" ROWE sits eagerly on the couch. She has light skin, green eyes and messy blond hair. Her leg bounces eagerly.

NEWSCASTER
MRF leader Markus Graly has been
labelled as the perpetrator of the
attack..

An image of Markus appears on screen. Cass gets up and cheers.

CASS
Ha! Take that, you Eyon shitheads!
He's a madman!

POV: TV

NEWSCASTER (CONT)
... Meanwhile, Eyon's Commander in
Chief Samwell Ellery gave a speech in
Eternia today about their current

efforts to deal with the MRF.

INTERCUT WITH

EXT. ETERNIA- DAY

SAMWELL "SAM" ELLERY stands behind a podium in front of a large building. Wind whips his straight black hair. His dull yellow eyes betray his exhaustion. A green tabard drapes over his black suit. Cameras flash in front of his face.

SAM

We promise that we are doing the most we can. We will retake this fort, and we will continue to combat this threat.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. CASS'S LIVING ROOM- MORNING

Cass pauses the TV. She checks her watch: 9:05. She looks at Sam on the screen with disgust, and flips her off.

EXT. MILLIOS- MORNING

MONTAGE

Cass runs through the city, passing through the sites of Millios: The Vault, Fallow Street, the Tower, the Town Square, and the train station.

TITLE CARD- MILLENIUM

MONTAGE END

EXT. MILLENIUM GARDENS- SUNRISE

Cass runs up the hill of a beautiful garden, past a small graveyard. She crests the hill to see a lone wooden BENCH at the end of the road. The bench rests squarely in the middle of the path, overlooking the rest of the lush Millenium Gardens.

Sitting on the bench is JAMES, his back to Cass. He is a small, wiry kid with straight, short-cut brown hair and a pale complexion. His face is wide-eyed and mousy, with piercing green eyes and a mole under his left eye.

CASS

James!

James turns his head and smiles as his friend approaches.

Cass runs up and sits opposite of James, breathing heavily.

CASS
You actually came this time.

JAMES
(chuckling)
Someone's gotta make sure you don't
get yourself killed.

CASS
C'mon. Ye of little faith, much?

JAMES
I'm just saying. And you're just in
time for the sunrise.

James points across the horizon. Cass turns and looks, and the two stare in awe at the glowing red and violet sunrise. They pause for a minute and smile.

CASS
Dad would've loved this.

JAMES
Yeah. I wonder if Nia can see it too.

CASS
I bet she can. If not, you can tell
her when you get there.

James looks down with a nervous look.

CASS
Speaking of, we're gonna be late. You
ready?

JAMES
Uh.. Yeah, yeah I'm ready.

Cass smiles and pats him on the shoulder. James smiles up at her, and the two stand and leave.

EXT. GARDEN GATE- DAY

As the two are walking, they see an Eyni GUARD holding and shaking down a young KID. The guard has the kid against the ground, hands behind his back as the kid struggles against him, to no avail.

GUARD

Give it back, you little shit!

KID

Get off me!

GUARD

You better give me back my Yealings,
or-

The guard looks up and sees Cass charging at him, yelling, fist raised. She slams her fist into the Guard's helmet, knocking him off balance and letting go of the kid.

The guard grunts and looks at Cass, who is standing in a faux battle stance, although anyone with combat training could tell it's a very poor one. The guard shakes his head and sighs.

GUARD

Tower's sake, are you kidding me?

Cass charges again, but this time the guard is ready. Before Cass can land a hit, the guard dodges and knocks her to the ground with his gun. Meanwhile, the young kid stands up and runs away. The guard grumbles and storms away, leaving Cass reeling on the ground.

GUARD

Stupid Millenians...

James rushes over to Cass and helps her to her feet.

JAMES

Holy shit, Cass, are you ok?

Cass gets up and looks at the guard with anger.

CASS

Yeah, I'm fine.

She takes a step towards the guard, but James stops her.

JAMES

Stop. You're only gonna make things
worse.

Cass grumbles, shaking off James' arm, and walks away. James glances back towards the guard, before running after his friend.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE- DAY

James and Cass walk through the busy town square where multiple vendors have stands set up. It's a dirty street with uneven cobblestone roads. Squalor and sickness pervade the streets. Vendors in dilapidated stands are waiting with rotten food. The vendors are haggard, mostly seniors and children. Guards scour the roads, pushing through the vendors. One poor old woman is getting harassed by a guard.

A dirty dog limps past but collapses next to them, whimpering. Cass looks with sorrow before she pulls out a small piece of bread from her pockets and tosses it to the dog. The dog happily eats it and its tail wags weakly. Cass smiles and leans down to pet it for a moment. She then gets up. She picks up her pace, looking at her feet. JAMES rushes to keep up.

EXT. FALLOW STREET- DAY

Cass and James arrive at Fallow Street, a wider and more clean street than the town square. A swinging faded sign hangs over the pockmarked roads. Multiple restaurants and small businesses line the street. The Sundown Bar stands in the center of the street, nestled neatly in between the other shops. A blue, six-sided starlike symbol is hidden on a banister next to the door: The symbol of the MRF, for the ones who know. A crowd is gathering outside of the bar and slowly filing through the small wooden doors.

CASS

We made it.

JAMES

Are you ready?

The two prepare to go in as well, but overhear a conversation.

RIO

... They care about us?

They turn to see RIO, a small dark-skinned woman, standing on a small podium across from the Sundown. She is holding up a roughly drawn sketch of Markus and speaking to a small crowd. Cass looks at her with annoyance.

RIO

They don't care. If they truly cared, they would be here right now, walking

through the streets and helping the people of Millenium. But they'd rather stay in their forts and garrisons, trying to "free" us by killing. We've seen this all before: They cause a scene, it makes Eyon more aggressive, and we are forced to suffer in their stead. This isn't war. This is abnegation. This newest attack is just gonna justify their hate towards us even more than it already has.

DANE

You're wrong.

From the back, a voice interrupts. Rio goes quiet, and the audience turns to see a young, ginger-haired man with a mousy freckled face and brown eyes. The same one who was in the Fox mask during the raid the night prior: DANE. Whispers permeate through the crowd.

Dane walks through the crowd and comes face-to-face with Rio.

RIO

Dane.

DANE

We explicitly stay out of the city so as to minimize casualties. And they know the enemy, they know it's us. (He raises his voice and speaks to the crowd) What, you think the rebellion who is fighting for your freedoms is looking to hurt you? That's insane. We are doing everything we can to stop this war.

RIO

You'd better hurry, because while you're out there more of us are suffErisg.

Dane spins around and stares daggers at Rio.

DANE

You think we don't know that, Rio? We've seen what Orion has done to us. (Once again turns to the crowd) And believe me, we are hurting just as much as you. We've all seen it. Poor

lining the streets. Mass arrests.
Price hiking. The people of Millenium
are being kicked from their homes,
their lives are being destroyed.

Dane paces around the crowd. Some people begin to nod and cheer him on. Rio is only growing more annoyed.

DANE (CONT.)

I bet even some of you have had their
lives ruined by Eyon. Are you just
going to sit here and do nothing while
Eyon chokes you? Out of your homes,
your money, your lives? No. The MRF is
going to change that. We will win this
war, for the glory and justice of
everyone who's lives have been lost or
destroyed.

The MRF recruits waiting outside the Sundown cheer, including Cass and James. Even some of the people listening to Rio begin to cheer. Dane comes back around and looks directly at Rio.

DANE

(intensely)

We are soldiers of the people, don't
forget that.

Rio says nothing. Dane walks back into the Sundown and motions for people to come inside. Cass stares at Dane with amazement before looking back at James.

CASS

That was awesome.

They begin walking inside with the group.

INT. SUNDOWN- DAY

The Sundown is a small and humble building, a square wooden box. Lamps jut from the walls and give the building a rustic feel. Dozens of long tables and benches are spread out uniformly around the room, filled with people enjoying drinks and food. The rest of the recruits finish trickling in. At the front sits the counter, the only piece of metal in the room.

Behind the counter are multiple shelves containing drinks and pictures. AIVEN, a dark-skinned man with trimmed hair and kind purple eyes shakes drinks at the counter. He smiles at

Cass and James as they enter.

JAMES

Aiven!

AIVEN

Hey you two! Finally decided to join?

JAMES

More like Cass pulled me along.

CASS

Hold on, you're not blaming me for this. You decided to come on your own.

JAMES

Yeah, to make sure you didn't get into trouble. Apparently I can't even stop that.

AIVEN

(chuckling)

Well, even so I'm glad you could make it. (checks his watch) And you're just in time.

Aiven winks and gets up from the counter. He walks over to the doors and closes it. He then turns to the patrons of the bar and speaks in a strong voice.

AIVEN

Y'all here for recruitment?

The bar erupts into cheers and pumping fists. Cass and James join in as well. Aiven nods and smiles with enthusiasm.

AIVEN

Alright!

Aiven walks over to the counter. He slides open a false panel on the underside of the table containing a red button. He looks to the crowd, smiles, and presses the button. The bar patrons look on in awe as one of the drink stands to Aiven's left swings open, revealing a stairwell leading down. The patrons mumble in shock. Dane and Aiven begin walking down the stairs.

AIVEN

Well, c'mon.

The recruits all pile down the stairs.

INT. KING'S RESPITE- DAY

Aiven ushers the group into a secret speakeasy. It's covered in wooden walls and metal tables. Another bar counter rests to the side of the room. The speakeasy is much smaller, with only a few tables and bottles of alcohol.

AIVEN

Good to have you all here. This is the King's Respite, a rebellion-only bar owned and operated by me, of course. You'll be coming here a lot, so get comfortable. With that being said, lemme introduce you all to my good friend, Dane!

Aiven does a little flourish with his hands in the direction of Dane, who jumps up onto the counter in one quick motion. The crowd cheers. Dane smiles and hushes them.

DANE

Thank you all for coming, it's so great to see so many new faces. Now; We used to be a great people. A community, a brotherhood. But now? Eyon has choked us so hard we can't even try to breathe. When King Oryck started this so long ago, he was hoping for this. Silence. Destitution. But are we gonna let that happen?

The crowd shouts "no!". Cass shouts as well. Dane grows more animated and raises his voice.

DANE

No! We're gonna stand up, we're gonna fight! And by the Tower, we're not gonna back down! Orion has tortured us for too long. It's time to end that!

The crowd erupts into cheers. Cass is cheering and pumping his fist. James is simply nodding along and clapping. Dane pauses and looks down.

DANE

Look, I don't need to sugarcoat it. We're at war. And war is... a lot. I bet a lot of you came in with this rosy-eyed idea of what we do. The glory of war, heroes of the nation. No. No, we kill. We hurt. And it's

hard. It's uncomfortable. And if you're not ready for that I understand. But if you are... (he looks around at the patrons) I promise, you will not regret it.

CUT TO

Aiven and Dane are handing out a paper that people are signing. Most people sign, but some back out and leave. Cass smiles with glee and turns to James.

CASS

That was great! What did you think?

JAMES

Uh.. yeah, I agree.

Aiven comes around and hands the paper to Cass, who enthusiastically signs it. She passes it off to James, who hesitates for a moment before signing as well.

JAMES

But didn't you hear-

AIVEN

Alright! Is that everyone?

The crowd cheers. Aiven walks over to the lever on the wall and pulls it. A tunnel opens up behind the wood of the building, leading deep through the earth. Dane motions them to follow him into the tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL- DAY

The group is walking through a long, circular tunnel dug out of the earth, held up by rusty metal bracers lining the walls, with only a few lights to illuminate the dark passage. The recruits, dwindled down to a group of 12, look around with awe and wonder. Dane leads the way down a gravel road, smiling, flashlight in hand. Cass pushes through up to the front.

CASS

Excuse me. I just wanted to tell you that I loved your speech.

DANE

Well, thank you very much.

CASS

Just all of the energy in that, it was... Sorry, I'm a big fan.

Dane chuckles.

DANE
What's your name?

CASS
Cass. Cass Stein.

DANE
What made you wanna join, Cass?

CASS
(With thought)
I wanna free our country, what else?

DANE
That's what everyone says.

CASS
Well, what about you?

Dane smiles and pulls out a small pocketwatch. He clicks it open to reveal a photo of a young woman with wavy white hair. He smiles.

The group comes to a dead end. No one would think anything of it if it weren't for the MRF logo above the wall. Dane wipes away some dirt on the side wall to reveal a biometrics panel. He presses his thumb to the pad, it beeps, and the cavern shakes as the wall slowly slides open. Bright lights pour in. The group is surprised as they walk into FORT NEW DAWN.

INT. FORT NEW DAWN- DAY

The room the group arrives in is a small square room with clean white walls and tiled floors. Fluorescent lights beam down from the ceiling. The room is covered in desks and shelves full of assorted weapons and papers. A large MRF star is hung above a doorway leading into a staircase going up.

Dane walks out in front of the recruits and extends his arms in a flourish.

DANE
Welcome, to Fort New Dawn. This is the current headquarters of our operations. We have other bases like these scattered throughout Millenium, but you'll be stationed here for the time being. You all have the day to explore the base, meet new

faces, and get your bearings. Lunch will be at noon in the mess hall. We will all meet back here at 6. Enjoy.

Dane does a 'welcome' gesture and the recruits rush out, eager to explore the base. James approaches Dane.

JAMES

Excuse me, do you know where my sister
Nia is?

Dane looks at him with surprise.

DANE

Nia Callister?

James nods. Dane laughs.

DANE

James Callister. Holy shit. C'mon,
she's just up here.

Dane beckons the two up the stairs.

INT. TRAINING ROOM- DAY

The three of them enter a large training room filled with dozens of soldiers training and sparring. A large square sparring ring sits in the middle of the room. Windows line the walls filter sunlight in, and a door leads out to a field behind the fort.

CASS

I didn't know the fort had this many
soldiers. This could be a whole army.

DANE

Yeah, if only.

NIA (O.S.)

Cass? James?

Cass and James turn to see a woman with short white hair and soft features running towards them, smiling. This is Nia, the bird from the attack on Fort Lariat. She gives the two of them a big hug.

JAMES

Good to see you!

NIA

I missed you guys! Why are you here?

The three pull out of the hug. Nia kisses Dane on the cheek.

CASS

We're joining the MRF.

NIA

Really?

Nia gives a worried look to James. James doesn't say anything, simply smiling and nodding.

NIA

Well, that's- that's great! We'd be happy to have you two.

CASS

We're happy to be here. (Pointing to Dane) Dane actually brought us here to find you.

NIA

Oh really?

DANE

(sarcastically)

They wouldn't stop complaining about it.

Nia lightly punches Dane.

DANE

Ow.

NIA

You shouldn't say that about new recruits.

DANE

C'mon, I don't even get a pass for your brother?

Dane and Nia begin arguing with each other, but Cass tunes them out when she notices something in the distance.

CASS

(To Nia)

Is that Markus?

Nia and Dane stop talking and turn to where Cass is looking: A group of soldiers in a training session, surrounding a man with brown hair and a bright red-and-yellow jacket: Markus.

DANE

Yep. That's the boss.

NIA

Shouldn't he be planning the next raid?

Cass smiles as she gazes at Markus with admiration.

Markus is kneeling on the ground, another soldier pointing a gun to his head.

MARKUS

Now, positioning and timing is key.
One wrong move, and you're dead. I
would hope you wouldn't want that to
happen.

The soldiers laugh.

MARKUS

Make it as quick as you can. Make them
think that they've won. And before
your opponent can suspect a thing...

Markus grabs the gun, spins around and kicks the soldier's leg out, and pins him to the ground.

Cass beams.

CASS

Whoa.

Dane leans in behind Cass.

DANE

Wanna go say hi?

Cass looks at him with shock.

CASS

Seriously?

DANE

Yeah, he won't mind. I think.

The four of them walk over to Markus, who is waving away the

trainees.

DANE

Hey, Markus! We go some recruits that
wanna say hi!

Markus turns and smiles at the four of them. He walks over.

MARKUS

Who are these two?

He turns to Cass, who is practically exploding with
excitement and begins vigorously shaking his hand.

CASS

Hi sir, my name's Cass, I'm super
grateful to meet you!

Markus pulls his hand away and laughs.

MARKUS

Well Cass, I like your enthusiasm.

He turns to James. James smiles and shakes his hand with a
much more controlled level of excitement.

JAMES

Nice to meet you. My name's James. I'm
Nia's sister.

MARKUS

Oh yeah. She's told me lots about you.

Markus pats the two kids on the shoulder.

MARKUS

Great to meet you two. I'm excited to
work with you.

CASS

You too sir.

MARKUS

Welcome to the Revolution.

Suddenly the lights flicker and shut off. The five of them
look around.

DANE

Gods damn it. Again?

INT. HALLWAY- DAY

Eris is busy fixing wiring on a large panel in a hallway. Without her mask she has sullen blue eyes, a pointed chin, and a scar on her cheek. She manages to get the lights to turn on for a moment and she looks proud, but then they shut off and her face drops. Dane, James, and Markus enter.

MARKUS

What happened now?

ERIS

Corroded wiring. Maybe if we had more up-to-date materials this wouldn't happen. Come help me with this.

Dane and Markus come to either side of Eris and help her. James stands back.

MARKUS

We would love to, if we could ever get another fort. We're still waiting on supplies from Lariat too.

DANE

James, grab that cord over there, will you?

Dane flounders as he motions towards a loose cord on the floor. JAMES scurries over, picks it up, and hands it to

DANE.

JAMES

I thought you guys already had a bunch of forts captured.

DANE

Well we did, but then we lost them all. After Da-

Dane pauses as he notices Markus giving him a very angry stare. Dane sighs and turns back to his work.

DANE

After our previous leader left, we've been kinda stuck in a rut.

MARKUS

But the important thing is we're still alive and Orion hasn't blown us to

pieces yet.

JAMES
Why doesn't he?

The three pause and turn to him.

JAMES
He has the power, why doesn't he just
destroy Millenium and be done with it?

ERIS
Because that would be shooting Eyon in
the foot. They take lots of resources
from us, they blow us up they lose all
of that.

Eris jams the cord into the wall and the lights flick back
on. She smiles.

ERIS
Ah, there we go.

INT. MESS HALL- NOON

Hustle and bustle fills the large rectangular mess hall.
Recruits and soldiers alike eat at big tables. Cass and James
sit together.

CASS
So, what do you think? You gonna join?

JAMES
I don't know. It all seems like a lot.

CASS
Aw, don't worry about it. If anyone
can handle it, it's you.

JAMES
Thanks.

CASS
I'm for sure joining. I can't wait to
get out there and bust some Eyon
heads.

JAMES
You should be careful. Remember what
Dane said?

CASS

I bet he was just saying that to scare people off. It's part of the atmosphere.

JAMES

I'm just saying, war isn't always what you see on TV. Just.. think about it.

Cass pauses for a moment. But before she can respond, she's interrupted. Dane jumps up onto an empty table.

DANE

Attention recruits! We're holding a little sparring contest. All recruits meet me in the training room.

Murmuring breaks out as multiple recruits begin flooding into the training room. Cass smiles and stands up.

CASS

Oh, this is gonna be awesome.

Cass follows the crowd. James looks at her with worry before following.

INT. TRAINING ROOM- NOON

Cass and the recruits stream in, surrounding the ringed training mat in the center of the room. Markus is standing in the middle. Dane, Eris, and Nia are looking on.

A mysterious man in a thick red scarf and a pink mask looks on from a distance. We can't see his face.

MARKUS

A soldier must all be ready to fight. Remember: war makes a hero, and I'm hoping to see all of you as heroes one day.

MONTAGE

Cass watches as recruits spar against each other, winning and losing. He grows increasingly nervous as the fights wear on.

END MONTAGE

A girl named Alia stands in the ring.

MARKUS

James.

James looks back at Cass. He sighs and enters the ring.

Alia assumes a fighting stance. James just stands there, shaking.

MARKUS

Begin.

Alia charges at James with a right hook, who yelps and dodges out of the way. The audience ooh's. Alia continues punching: right, left, right, up, but James avoids every hit, a look of fear on his face. Until finally a hit lands, sending James into the net. He puts a hand to his cheek, and winces. James panics and rolls away from another hit by Alia. He gets up and tries to run away, but Alia trips him and his face slams into the mat.

When James tries to stand up, he's shocked when he sees his nose bleeding. His eyes widen in pure terror as Alia charges again, ready to deliver one final blow. James squeezes his eyes shut.

JAMES

I surrender!

Alia stops. The audience gasps. James opens his eyes again, looking at the floor with shame.

JAMES

You win.

Alia looks surprised. James shamefully gets out of the ring and leaves the room. Cass tries to reach for him, but James doesn't acknowledge him. Cass looks worried and saddened.

CUT TO

Rost, a young boy with blond hair, enters the ring, looking quite cocky.

MARKUS

Cass, you're up.

Cass sighs and enters the ring. Cass and Rost stare each other down. Rost enters a combat stance. Cass enters one as well, but it's the same weak stance he used against the guard.

MARKUS

Begin!

Without wasting any time, Rost rushes forward and CLOCKS Cass square in the jaw. A gasp is heard as Cass falls back into the net. But she gets up with fire in his eyes and body SLAMS into Rost, who gets knocked hard off balance.

Cass follows it up with two hard hits to the stomach, but her winning doesn't last as Rost grabs her hand and slams his fist into Cass' chest. Cass reels back as the wind leaves her lungs, and while she's caught off guard, Rost knocks her to the ground with a strong kick to the head.

Cass slams against the netting, but Rost doesn't let her get back up. He punches her back down, again and again, before he backs up. Blood streams down Cass's face. Rost looks out to the audience with pride. Before the fight can be called, however, Cass slowly stands back up. Rost turns and looks with shock.

ROST

No way.

CASS

(panting and coughing)

I'm not... done. I'm gonna win.

Because... I'm gonna... be a hero. You hear me? And heroes... don't.. lose!

She rushes at Rost, yelling. Caught off guard by her ferocity, Rost is hit hard and sent spiraling into the net. The audience gasps. Rost is bleeding as well.

Markus narrows his eyes and looks at Cass curiously.

As Cass goes in for the kill, Rost SWEEPS his legs, sending her hard into the floor. Rost straddles her, pinning down her arms and legs, winding up for another punch.

MARKUS

That's enough!

Rost lowers his fist and looks at Rost.

ROST

Did I win?

MARKUS

Nobody won.

Markus walks off. Rost stares daggers at Cass, who laughs through her bloodied face.

INT. MEDICAL ROOM- AFTERNOON

In a small white room on an operating table, a nurse bandages Cass's wounds. It's been some time, and bandages cover her now clean face. Markus enters.

CASS
Why did you call it?

Markus says nothing. He leans against the doorframe.

MARKUS
I'm not too partial on having my
recruits die on the first day.

Cass scoffs.

CASS
(quietly)
I wasn't gonna die.

MARKUS
All things considered though, you
weren't too bad in there.

CASS
You saw for yourself. I got my ass
kicked.

MARKUS
But you got back up. That's the
important part.

Beat.

MARKUS
Your friend in there, James. Why did
he surrender?

CASS
(sighing)
He's never been a fighter. He's always
been the weak one, needing me or Nia
to help him.

INTERCUT WITH

EXT. MILLIOS- DAY

A young James is getting beat up and bullied by a group of larger kids. James is crying.

CASS (V.O.)
To be honest, I'm surprised he's even here.

CUT TO

A young Cass is standing over a beaten James. She is defending him, arms outstretched, yelling at the bullies. James is looking at her with tears in his eyes.

MARKUS (V.O.)
So why did he join?

CASS (V.O.)
I don't know.

Cass looks back and gives James a reassuring smile. James looks with awe before smiling back.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. MEDICAL ROOM- AFTERNOON

MARKUS
Then he's braver than most.

CASS
Yeah.

Beat. Cass looks at the floor.

MARKUS
What you said in there. Did you mean it?

CASS
(confused)
Yeah, every word of it.

MARKUS
Good.

Markus leaves a perplexed Cass.

INT. SUNDOWN- NIGHT

The recruits, once again led by Dane, return to the now sparsely populated Sundown. Once everyone streams in, Dane turns to them.

DANE

Well, I hope you all had a good time.
I know a few of you did.

He glances at Cass and Rost, who still have a few bandages on. Cass smiles and Rost turns his head.

DANE

Now, that was just a small glimpse
into what we do. If you truly wish to
join after today, come back here
tomorrow morning, same time. Like I
said earlier, it's going to be hard.
It's going to be painful. But after
seeing all of you today, I am
confident that you're up to the task.
Enjoy the rest of your night.

The group disperses. James and Cass leave together. Their moods are both a bit more dulled than they were earlier.

EXT. FALLOW STREET- NIGHT

Cass turns to James and puts a hand on his shoulder.

CASS

Hey, you ok?

James shakes the hand off.

JAMES

Yeah, I'm.. I'm fine. See you
tomorrow.

James walks down Fallow Street. Cass watches him leave.

EXT. MILLIOS- NIGHT

James plods through the now empty streets of Millios. He passes by the empty town square.

CUT TO

James ends at his house, a small yet modest building with one floor and peeling paint. He stares up at it before walking

inside.

INT. JAMES' HOUSE- NIGHT

James enters his living room- A tiny square shoebox filled with random trash, bits of metal, and machinery. He flops on the couch, staring up at the ceiling and thinking.

INT. CASS'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Cass comes home. She walks up the stairs, past the large BOOKCASE at the bottom, and enters his room. It's messy and filled with MRF posters. She sits on his bed and sighs. She looks around her room quietly, before stopping at a loose picture on her nightstand. She smiles and picks it up. It's a picture of her FATHER, a young mustached man with blond hair and a warm smile, and holding on next to him is a little boy with short hair and a t-shirt: a much younger Cass.

CASS

I'll make you proud, dad.

INT. SUNDOWN- NIGHT

Markus sits alone at the bar, slowly downing a drink. He appears to be thinking. Aiven enters from behind the drink stand with another bottle.

AIVEN

Don't you think you've been here for a while?

MARKUS

Not really.

He takes another gulp, killing off his glass.

AIVEN

How'd everything go with the recruits today?

Aiven refills Markus' glass and sets the bottle down on the table.

MARKUS

Not bad. Seemed like some good ones in there. (pause) Y'know, there was one. He was... fiery, in a different way than anybody I've seen in a while. It reminded me of.. never mind.

Pause. Markus sighs and turns his head.

AIVEN
(chuckling)
I think I might know who you're
talking about. Cassia Rowe?

MARKUS
I swear, you know everybody in this
damn city.

AIVEN
A bartender's gotta know his patrons.
(pause) I knew his father. He's a good
kid. He really looks up to you,
y'know.

MARKUS
Yeah.

AIVEN
What are you gonna do with him?

MARKUS
That's the question.

The two sit in silence for a moment.

AIVEN
I'll let you enjoy your drink. Night,
Markus.

Markus nods. Aiven shrinks back behind the counter. Quiet
overtakes the bar again as Markus continues his drink. The
silence is interrupted by a ringing as the door opens.

RIO
Where's Aiven?

Markus sighs as Rio walks over and stands next to him.

MARKUS
Want me to grab him for you?

RIO
Nah, this'll do.

Rio grabs the bottle next to Markus and takes a large gulp.

MARKUS
You're out late. Came to chew me out?

RIO

Why do you always think that whenever we see each other it's because I wanna start an argument? I have my own life, you know.

MARKUS

(chuckling)

Well, most of your life is spent trying to annoy me, so it's not that different.

RIO

You make it quite easy.

Markus slams his empty glass onto the table, silently fuming. He stares at Rio.

MARKUS

And here I thought you said you didn't want to start an argument.

RIO

I try.

MARKUS

Did you really just come to have a drink, Rio?

RIO

Doesn't matter anymore. The point is I came, saw you, and here we are.

Markus stands up.

MARKUS

So why are you here now?

The two stare at each other. Pause. Markus looks with anger. Rio simply looks indifferent.

RIO

Well, now I'm thinking maybe we could have a chat.

MARKUS

(scoffs)

What, you're trying to recruit me or something?

RIO
You know just as well as I that this
is hurting more than helping.

Markus turns back to his drink.

MARKUS
Oh, I do, do I?

RIO
I bet Davro would be so proud of you.

This really sets Markus off. He heel-turns and grabs Rio by the neck of her shirt.

MARKUS
Don't say his name.

Markus is furious. Rio simply smirks.

RIO
Or what, you're going to kill me? I
doubt that would look good for your
cause.

MARKUS
Yeah, you're right. I'm not gonna kill
you. But you, me, speaking tonight?
Covertly? Words might get out that you
don't wanna hear.

RIO
You're not the type of person to
blackmail me.

MARKUS
Honestly Rio, you don't know what the
hell type of person I am.

The door of the bar slams open and a group of 6 Eyoni guards run in.

OFFICER
Markus Graly, Rio Martez, you're under
arrest!

Markus looks at them annoyed and lets go of Rio.

MARKUS
You guys really know when to ruin a
moment.

OFFICER
Put your hands behind your heads. Now!

RIO
(sighing)
Tonight, of all nights...

Rio puts her hands on her head. Markus, however, unsheathes his SWORD. The guards raise their guns. Rio rolls her eyes.

OFFICER
Drop your weapon!

MARKUS
(tauntingly)
You first.

OFFICER
If you don't put down your weapon, we
will open fire in 3.. 2...

Rio ducks. Markus rushes forward.

OFFICER
One-

The guards are blindsided as Markus slices an arm off the OFFICER. The guards open fire, breaking the bottles on the counter and putting holes in the tables. Markus deftly evades behind some tables.

OFFICER
Kill them!

GUARD
Sir, even the-

OFFICER
Just shoot them both!

Three of the guards point their guns at Rio and open fire. She kicks down the table in front of her, blocking the bullets. Meanwhile, Markus vaults over the bar counter and throws a BOTTLE at a guard, enough of a distraction to let him get close and slice his NECK.

A guard shoots through the table hiding Rio, and she dashes out, making a break for the exit. Markus slices the gun of a guard in two before stabbing him through the head. Another guard comes at him, swinging a sword, but Markus kicks a TABLE at him. Another guard stabs at him, but Markus dodges

under and performs an upward slice that quickly kills him.

The guard blocked by the table cuts it in half, but Markus is ready. He blocks the sword, and uses its weight to stab him through the neck.

The Officer weakly reaches for his PISTOL...

Meanwhile, another guard is chasing Rio, swinging wildly, but Rio is dodging every swing. In one quick motion she rolls over a table and flips it up to block the guard, who cuts it in half. Rio jumps away and swims through his attacks, for a time. The guard manages to slice her in the arm, and she FALLS over next to the door.

RIO

Urgh!

The guard laughs and goes in for the kill. But he is interrupted when Markus swings at the guard, who blocks the attack and the two spar.

Meanwhile, the Officer grabs his gun and wobbles towards Rio.

Markus and the guard fight, trading blows. The guard slashes, but Markus dodges by jumping onto a table. Markus swings for his head, blocked once again. The guard swipes at his legs, and Markus jumps over him and cuts off his HEAD.

The Officer is the only one left. He is about to shoot Rio, but is stabbed through the head by Markus. Blood spurts on Rio, who flinches. The Officer slumps over, and Markus stands over Rio, panting and bloodied. Rio rolls her eyes and wipes the blood off her face.

RIO

You really know how to make a scene.

MARKUS

I would've loved for you to help out.

Markus leans down and grabs a loose napkin from the ground and bandages her wound.

RIO

You can't be serious.

Markus stands up and begins to leave.

RIO

So that's it? You're just gonna leave

me here?

Markus stops. He turns his head to look at Rio.

MARKUS

You make it quite easy to.

Markus leaves the building. Rio is livid. Aiven slowly walks out from the back of the bar and stares in shock at the destruction that has befallen his bar.

AIVEN

Are you fucking kidding me!?

Rio laughs. Aiven doesn't find it funny.

INT. CASS'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Cass walks down the stairs, photo still in her hand, but it accidentally falls out, floating down in front of the bookcase. Cass sighs and reaches down for it. But she stops when an inexplicable breeze blows on the picture.

Cass looks in confusion. She reaches her hand down, and recoils when she feels a breeze from a small gap between the bookcase and the floorboards. Cass picks up the picture and stares at the bookcase. She puts the photo in his pocket and lets her curiosity get the better of her and begins to push the bookcase, which to her surprise, actually MOVES.

From behind the bookcase, Cass reveals a secret TUNNEL. When the entrance to the tunnel is fully revealed, she stops. Cass stares into the dark of the tunnel with a look of wonder and worry.

CASS

Hello?

Her yell echoes off the tunnel walls.

CUT TO

Cass grabs a flashlight from a cabinet.

CUT TO

Cass turns on the flashlight, takes a deep breath, and enters cautiously into the tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL- CONTINUOUS

Cass walks through the tunnel, looking like the tunnel leading to Fort New Dawn. The path winds and turns, descending deeper into the earth. The further she walks she begins to see branching paths, but Cass decides to stay straight. She flicks her flashlight around the cavern, seeing metal bracers holding up the cave with strange SYMBOLS on it.

Soon she sees a bright CYAN light coming from in front of him. The more she walks the more intense the light gets. The light consumes everything she can see.

INT. IRON HEART CHAMBER- CONTINUOUS

Cass enters a massive, tall circular room. Her eyes widen and her mouth drops. In the center is a giant metal HEART-SHAPED ORB, glowing with the same cyan light. Wires eject from the top and connect into the ceiling. Encircling the strange machine is a river of water, lit by machines emitting the same light. Jutting out of the river are large metal PLINTHS.

CASS
(whispering)
What the hell?

Cass walks closer to the mysterious machine. Her head is on a swivel as she tries to take everything in. She strides over to one of the plinths, attracting her with almost a beckoning aura. The plinths contain a smaller basin of water at its top, with two metal brackets peeking out of the water.

Cass notices a strange sentence carved into the metal next to the basin, written in a strange language that she doesn't know. She looks closer into the basin, and sees something resting at the bottom. It's very hard to make out.

Cass reaches for it. As soon as her wrist crosses in between the brackets, they suddenly light up and Cass's hand is frozen in place. The brackets hum.

CASS
Ack!

Cass tries to pull her arm away from the plinth, but she's stuck. The giant heart rumbles and turns on, making a sound akin to BEATING. Then two little machine arms raise from the water and point at his wrist. The thing at the bottom begins to rise out of the water, but Cass is too frightened to notice.

The machine arms spark, and Cass unsuccessfully tries to swat them away. The beating of the heart gets faster and louder. The light grows brighter and brighter, until it envelops the entire room.

FADE TO WHITE

Quiet except for the slow beating of the heart. It beats slower and slower until... silence.

Beat.

FADE IN

MUSIC CUE: THE KILLING MOON (ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN)

Cass lies passed out on the floor next to the plinth. She slowly opens her eyes and looks around. The machine is silent, no longer glowing. She sits up and rubs her temple. When she opens her eyes again she notices a cyan light emitting from her WRIST. Her eyes widen. She stares at the thing that is now lodged into her wrist in shock.

Placed just below the wrist, lodged into the skin, rests a large COMPUTER CHIP. The chip glows and hums. Lines crisscross throughout the chip, stopping with a strange SYMBOL. Cass stares at the device in horror.

CUT TO

MONTAGE

INT. KING'S RESPITE- NIGHT

Dane sits alone and finishes a drink. He looks up to the ceiling and the Sundown above him. He gets up, leaving the glass. He opens up the tunnel passage and leaves. The tunnel closes behind him.

EXT. FORT LARIAT GATE- NIGHT

MRF soldiers rest against the gate, smoking. One of them notices a rustle in the woods, and suddenly a platoon of Eyoni soldiers emerge from the bushes. The MRF soldier's eyes widen. Leading the platoon is Samwell. A giant GREATSWORD is slung over his shoulder. He looks up at the soldier.

INT. JAMES' HOUSE- NIGHT

James stares at a framed photo of him and Nia. He curls his fist into a ball and narrows his eyes in determination.

INT. RIO'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Rio stitches up her wound. She grunts in pain.

EXT. FORT NEW DAWN- NIGHT

Eris sits on the steps leading into the Fort. She stares at the city of MILLIOS in the distance with sorrow.

INT. BARRACKS- NIGHT

The man in the red scarf is sitting on a bed with his back turned. He is clad in silver armor. His mask is sitting next to him: a PINK BOAR mask, with narrow eyes and white tusks, made in a similar design to Dane, Nia, and Eris's masks. He reaches down and grabs it, pulling it towards him.

INT. TRAINING ROOM- NIGHT

Nia is shooting at targets. She hits the bullseye on very single one of them. She pauses and turns to look at Markus, wailing on a sandbag nearby. Anger fills his eyes. Nia turns back, reloads her gun, and continues shooting.

CUT TO

A pair of brown eyes flick open.

CUT TO

INT. KING'S SPIRE- SUNSET

ORION, the KING OF EYON, stares out upon the Eyoni capital of AEGIS. All we see of him are his piercing red eyes looking out intently from a massive window overlooking the city. He faces the window, only revealing his silhouette.

CUT TO

EXT. AEGIS- SUNSET

The bloody sun sets over the massive tech-filled city, lights and flying vehicles filling the sky and buildings reaching up to the heavens.

CUT TO BLACK

END OF EPISODE 1