

MILLENIUM
Episode 1
Welcome to the Revolution: Part 1

By

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EXT. FORT LARIAT- CONTINUOUS

An empty, forested path leading to a fort. At the gate is a small checkpoint. GUARD 1 stands watch. He checks his watch and enters the checkpoint.

Inside is GUARD 2 sleeping. Guard 1 kicks Guard 2 awake.

GUARD 1
Hey, you two are up.

GUARD 2
By Oryck, what time is it?

GUARD 1
12. You're out until sunrise.

Guard 2 groans. He peels himself from the chair and grabs his helmet. He smacks the head of GUARD 3, asleep at a table. Guard 3 jerks awake, looks around, and puts on his helmet.

GUARD 3
Dammit.

The two sleepy guards shuffle out into the night air.

The night is cool and lonely. The darkness completely blankets the thick forest in front of them. Crickets chirp.

One could go mad here.

The guards shift uncomfortably.

GUARD 3 (CONT'D)
I don't even know why we're out here,
nothing's gonna happen.

GUARD 2
Well, the MRF could happen.

Guard 3 chuckles.

GUARD 3
I'd be sooner to expect a lightning
strike.

Pause.

GUARD 3 (CONT'D)
So... how much longer you stationed
here for?

GUARD 2
Two months.

GUARD 3
Wow, getting out soon. You got kids? A wife?

GUARD 2
Two.

GUARD 3
Two wives?

GUARD 2
Two kids.

He pulls out a locket with a picture inside: Him, his wife, and two grinning babies. He smiles.

GUARD 2 (CONT'D)
Back in Revros. They were just babies when I left.

As Guard 2 is speaking, Guard 3 peers at something in the distance before a bullet strikes him in the head and he collapses. Guard 2 doesn't notice.

GUARD 2 (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Gods, they'll be nearly 5 now. I hope they still remember me.

Silence. Guard 2 turns and sees the body.

GUARD 2 (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Jess? Jess!

Guard 2 panics. He shakes the body.

Nothing. Guard 2's breathing increases as he looks around the woods. He sees nothing.

GUARD 2 (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Shit.

Guard 2 dashes into the forts open-air courtyard, frantically waving his arms.

GUARD 2 (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
The MRF! We're under attack! Sound the alarm! We're under a-

He's silenced by a bullet to his back.

A moment. Then, the entire base erupts. Alarms blare, soldiers dash back and forth, calls for the Commander echo through the now raucous night.

Yet the woods remain silent and still, with only a smoking gun barrel peeking out through the trees.

The COMMANDER- a tall, imposing man- stomps out to the courtyard. With a hand signal the soldiers fall silently into line behind him.

COMMANDER

Arms!

The soldiers lower their guns towards the tree line. Silence. Sweat pours down the soldiers' faces. Their guns tremble. The arm of the Commander prepares to fall, when...

CRACK!

A bullet hits the Commander right between the eyes. He falls. The soldiers hesitate.

EXT. TREES- NIGHT

People wait under the cover of the trees. One man is above the others: MARKUS. His face is covered. Where all the others wear a blue scarf, his is golden. He smirks.

MARKUS

Now.

EXT. FORT LARIAT- NIGHT

The MRF bursts from the tree line. Bullets fly. The soldiers are caught off guard. Blades clash. Blood spills. Screams of agony ring out.

It's a bloodbath.

The battle is over before it even started. Bodies of soldiers and MRF litter the floor. Crows flee from the tree line.

A man with red hair and a fox mask leans down over a body. He raises his hands in prayer.

DANE

May the Acolyte guide you.

DANE stands and turns to Markus.

DANE (CONT'D)
I hope this is worth it, Markus.

Surprisingly, Guard 2 is still alive, crawling away from the terrifying guerillas.

Markus approaches and kicks him over with a heavy boot. He points a gun in his face.

GUARD 2
N-no, please! I have a family, please spare me!

Pause.

MARKUS
Tell that to the dead.

BANG.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. NEWSROOM- DAY

A news bulletin flashes on screen. It switches to a reporter with an image of Fort Lariat beside her.

REPORTER
The Millenium Revolutionary Front attacked an Eyoni garrison late last night. The attack was carried out by Markus Graly, the leader of the terrorist group.

An image of Markus flashes on screen.

Markus is a tall man with dirty brown hair, a single white streak in between his eyes. His cold red eyes betray his warm smile.

ZOOM OUT TO:

EXT. MILLIOS- DAY

Dozens of Millenian citizens gather around a tv in a shop window.

In the back stands a young girl with her hood up.

REPORTER (V.O.)
 Eyoni Military Enforcement is
 currently recovering from the attack
 and searching for the whereabouts of
 the terrorist organization. A hotline
 has been opened, and citizens are
 encouraged to report any illicit
 activity.

The young girl, CASS, raises her head and grins.

Determination burns in her eyes.

CUT TO:

TITLE CARD: MILLENIUM

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. MILLENIUM GARDENS- DAY

The Gardens. The only serenity in the chaotic city of
 Millios, capital of Millenium. A sprawling green landscape
 filled with trees and flowers.

Cass sits on a lone bench atop a hill, overlooking the
 gardens. A pensive look crosses her face. She sighs and walks
 away.

She walks down the hill to a small graveyard. She scans the
 graves for a name but doesn't find one. She stops at one
 grave and puts down a flower. She gives a pained smile.

BRRRING!

Cass pulls out her phone to see a call from 'KIRK'. She sighs
 and answers it.

CASS
 Sup.

KIRK (V.O.)
 Ready for another job?

Cass smirks.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOPS- DAY

Cass is crouching behind a small banister, looking out over a

big building patrolled by Eyni Military Enforcement (EME).

KIRK (V.O.)
It's an EME weapons depot off Kanal
Street. Get in, get as many as you
can, leave it at the dead drop.

Cass grabs a big empty sac. She grins and hops the banister.

CASS (V.O.)
This better not be like last time.

Cass hops along rooftops until she ends on the depot roof.

KIRK (V.O.)
'Last time'? You mean 'I was wanted by
the whole city and almost blew our
operation' last time?

As Cass overlooks the roof, she speaks directly into the
phone.

CASS
Ok, that's gotta be an overstatement.

KIRK (V.O.)
Nope. We all almost died.

CASS
Sheesh, why do you still keep me on
your payroll?

KIRK (V.O.)
(sighing)
Because you still get the job done.

Cass chuckles to herself.

KIRK (CONT'D)
Just make sure you don't get caught
this time. Please.

CASS
No promises.

Cass hangs up. She overlooks the roof onto the balcony below,
where two EMEs stand guard.

A beat.

The two guards get called in. A perfect opening. Cass slides

down the roof and tiptoes into the building.

INT. DEPOT HALLWAY- DAY

The building is barren and quiet, aside from muffled banter on the floors below. Banners showing Eyon's insignia- a green tower- line the walls. Cass, her head on a swivel, makes her way down the hall.

TMP, TMP, TMP.

Footsteps. Cass ducks behind a corner as the EMEs come back to the balcony.

She sighs. They didn't notice. She sneaks down the hall and turns a corner, running past a few extra guards playing cards in a room.

Finally, she ends in...

INT. ARMORY- DAY

The armory is stark white, lined with armor, guns, swords, and other weapons. Cass marvels at its beauty.

She perks up. People are coming! She whips out her bag and stuffs weapons and armor into it.

The footsteps grow closer. Cass keeps shoveling items in.

It's too late! An EME stops just outside of the armory.

EME

Hey, who's there?

Cass winces and groans. She sets the bag against the wall and meekly steps out.

EME (CONT'D)

Who the hell are you?

Cass clears her throat and puffs out her chest.

CASS

Ahem, I am... the janitor! Yes, the janitor. Y'know, the custodial staff here is very concerned about the smells coming from the bathroom.

The EME is unimpressed. Cass sweats.

THUMP.

The bag falls over and guns spill out.

The two glance at the bag, then bag at each other. The EME reaches for his pistol. Cass smiles nervously and dashes to the bag.

EME

Hey!

Cass scoops up the bag and runs down the hall.

INT. DEPOT HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

BANG! The EME fires but Cass dodges around the corner.

She breathes a sigh of relief and keeps running down the twisting corridors.

Sirens blare. Lights flash.

Cass groans.

More EMEs funnel out into the halls to chase her. Cass looks back briefly and picks up her pace.

EMEs jump out the room to get her! Cass dodges and weaves, up and over all of them.

She skids around a corner and sees a window. She dashes towards it.

One EME pulls out a net gun and fires. The net gets closer, closer...

CRRRRSH!!

Cass flies out onto the rooftops below.

EXT. ROOFTOPS- DAY

Cass crash-lands on a nearby rooftop, keeping her momentum as she springs to her feet and continues running.

From the depot a group of EMEs gather at the broken window.

EME

Get a team out there! C'mon!

The EMEs scatter.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOPS- DAY

On another rooftop, Cass no longer has the bag. She pants.

CASS
Phew! That almost turned out like last
time.

She looks at a pile of trash in the corner and sighs in relief.

BANG. A gunshot whizzes past her. She turns to see EMEs charging at her.

CASS (CONT'D)
Oh, for fuck's sake!

Cass runs. A bullet grazes her arm and she stumbles, but keeps moving.

She hops across another rooftop. She manages to build some distance between her and the EMEs. She glances back and laughs.

Suddenly... SMACK. She hits something hard. She shakes her head and realizes she ran headfirst into a bulky EME with a big sword.

Cass flashes a nervous smile.

CASS (CONT'D)
Yep. Last time.

The EME swings! Cass ducks through his legs as his blade breaks the concrete.

CRACK!

Cass pops up and continues running, flashing a middle finger back at the EME.

She continues hopping from rooftop to rooftop, EMEs hot on her tail. She looks out and sees the Capitol building. She spies a small balcony on the east corner.

CASS (CONT'D)
That'll get them off me!

She speeds towards the building. The jump is far. She takes a

deep breath and leaps.

Cass flies through the air. She grins. She's gonna make it!

But then she begins to fall.

CASS (CONT'D)
No, no, dammit! AAAAAH!

She flails as she plummets, missing the balcony completely. She smacks into the side of the wall with a heavy THUD that knocks the wind out of her.

She slides off a canopy and into a pile of trash in an alley.

EXT. ALLEY- DAY

Cass lays beaten, looking nearly lifeless.

The EMEs on the roof take one glance at her, assume she's dead, and leave.

Cass stirs, clearing the trash bags from her face.

CASS
Uuuuuugh.....

She lurches to her feet, brushing off dirt and trash. She looks around. In front of her is Fallow Street, the main thoroughfare of Millios. It's bustling.

Cass lets out a pained sigh of relief and puts up her hood.

CASS (CONT'D)
At least I'm not dead... yet.

EXT. FALLOW STREET- DAY

Cass walks out onto the busy street. She stops for a moment to give the Capitol the stink eye.

She walks. Her eyes dart around. The people are sick and ragged. Anti-Eyoni graffiti line buildings. EMEs chase a few kids down the road. Other EMEs harass civilians. Beggars plead for help from the passersby.

Eyon has destroyed this city.

Cass stops and gives some loose change to a beggar. The beggar thanks her. Cass gives him a warm smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOPS- DAY

Back on the rooftop, Cass digs through the trash in the corner.

A blue, seven-sided star is painted subtly on the side of the ledge.

She grabs her stash of weapons, relieved that it's still there. She pats down the bag and continues on her way.

EXT. OUTSIDE SUNDOWN- EVENING

Farther along Fallow Street is the historic Sundown Bar and Inn. A large wooden building with a cozy vibe.

On the side of the building is a poster for the MRF. It shows Markus standing heroically amongst raised fists.

'EYON DOESN'T CONTROL YOU. JOIN THE MRF!'

Cass smiles.

She walks to the door, takes a deep breath, and enters.

INT. SUNDOWN- EVENING

The bar is spacious and cozy. The atmosphere is jubilant, Millenians laughing and drinking to escape the cold reality of the nation.

Adults only. A kid like Cass draws in a few confused and concerned looks.

Cass shuffles up to the bar counter. KIRK, a kind and large man laughs to patrons as he doles out alcohol. Cass takes an empty barstool and plops the bag on the counter. A few guns and helmets peak out.

Kirk takes the bag and buries it behind the counter in one swift motion.

He leans in.

KIRK
(whispering)
Fool's Folly! I told you to leave it
at the dead drop!

CASS
Yeah, but I wanted to see you!
Besides, there's no EMEs here.

KIRK
You never know who's gonna blab.

CASS
Oh yeah? Like who?

Cass looks around the smiling patrons.

CASS (CONT'D)
Maybe Charlie? Ooh, but Hutch is
giving me mean eyes-

KIRK
Cass-

CASS
Maybe Donovan? Or maybe-

KIRK
CASS.

Cass stops and turns back around.

KIRK (CONT'D)
(sighing)
Look, I'm already getting noticed for
letting a kid in here.

CASS
(offended)
I'm 16!

KIRK
Yeah, exactly. I can't have you keep
bouncing around like you do, you need
to be more careful. You keep this up,
I'm gonna get caught, MRF loses a
fence, and you don't get paid. OK?

CASS
I-

Cass tries to object but falls short. Kirk gives her a stern
look. Her gaze falls to the floor.

CASS (CONT'D)
Ok, boss.

Kirk slides over an envelope full of cash. Cass grabs it.

Kirk gives her a reassuring smile.

KIRK

I'm just looking out for you, kid.

He turns to put some bottles on the shelves.

KIRK (CONT'D)

I hope Caden knew what he was doing,
dumping you with me...

Tears form in Cass' eyes. She tries to blink them away.

CASS

Yeah, me too.

Kirk sifts through bottles. He glances back to the sad kid and puts a paper in front of her. It's another MRF propaganda poster.

This one has a hand with the seven-sided star of Millenium on its wrist reaching down to grab another hand drowning in the ocean.

The text reads 'YOU ARE LOST. FIND YOUR WAY HOME.'

KIRK

Hey. MRF recruiters are coming by in a few days. You gonna try again?

Cass wipes away her tears and smiles.

CASS

Yeah.

Kirk grins and ruffles Cass' messy blond hair.

KIRK

That's what I like to hear. I gotta go deliver these drinks.

Kirk picks up a few glasses full of beer and walks away.

KIRK (CONT'D)

And don't stay too long!

Cass chuckles and rolls her eyes.

Kirk brings the glasses over to a man with red hair,

freckles, and wide eyes. A fox mask rests on the table: Dane.
Kirk sets down a glass.

KIRK
Shouldn't you be back at the fort,
Dane?

Dane sips his beer.

DANE
Nah, we're scouting. Got an important
mission tonight.

KIRK
Need an extra hand?

DANE
(laughing)
Yeah, we'll call you if we need a
drink.

Dane's gaze falls on Cass, who is standing up from the bar.

DANE (CONT'D)
The girl. Who's she?

Kirk looks at Cass and shakes his head.

KIRK
A runner. A very good runner.

DANE
Hmm.

A smile tugs at Dane's lips as he watches Cass leave.

EXT. MILLIOS- NIGHT

Cass walks along a lonely street. Two bedraggled kids, a boy and a girl, run past her and hide in a bush. Cass stops to look. The boy, a little older than the girl but still younger than Cass, shushes her.

BOY
EMEs! Don't tell them!

Cass nods.

A second later an ANGRY EME runs up to Cass. His helmet is up and showing his angry face.

ANGRY EME

Hey. Did you see two kids around here?

The girl begins to lift her head up, but Cass signals to stay down.

CASS

No. Why?

ANGRY EME

They're criminals, that's why.

CASS

Yeah? What did they do?

ANGRY EME

It doesn't matter!

CASS

If it doesn't matter, why don't you let them go? It's not nice to be chasing innocent kids around.

The EME's face is red and fuming. Cass isn't backing down. She balls her fists.

ANGRY EME

Look, kid. Keep your nose out of my fuckin' business or I'll arrest you.

Cass takes that literally. She shoves her nose right into the EME's face.

The EME's face turns beet red. He sucker-punches her in the stomach. Cass falls to her knees and wretches. The EME walks off.

ANGRY EME (CONT'D)

Stupid Millennials... It's not even worth it.

The kids jump out of the bush.

BOY

Are you ok?

CASS

(in-between coughs)

Yeah, I'm fine... You two better leave.

BOY
O-ok. Are you sure you don't-

CASS
I'm good. Just go.

The two younger kids look at each other, then back at Cass, and then run away.

BOY
Thanks, miss!

Cass chuckles.

CASS
'Miss', huh? That's new.

She gets up and continues along the path.

INT. CASS' HOME- NIGHT

Cass enters the back door into a run-down home. The house is spacious yet dimly-lit.

This was once the home of a family. Not anymore.

Cass wanders through the hall into the kitchen. She grabs an old takeout box from the dirty refrigerator and ambles upstairs.

She passes an empty metal bookcase on her way up.

INT. CASS' BEDROOM- NIGHT

Cass enters her shoebox-sized bedroom, covered in random clothes and junk. The walls are lined with music and MRF propaganda posters. She takes some pills on her nightstand, sits down on her bed and starts eating.

She fiddles with the edge of one poster next to her bedroom window; A picture of millions of fists in the air.

The text reads 'TOGETHER WE STAND.'

A glint enters Cass' eye. She grins.

CASS
Next time for sure.

In the reflection of the window, Cass sees a photo on her nightstand. She turns around to look at it solemnly.

The photo is loose and worse for wear. It's of a man with curly blond hair and a huge grin holding an ice cream cone. There is a young boy next to him grabbing his arm, holding up a peace sign, also holding an ice cream cone.

A much younger Cass.

Cass picks up the photo and smiles. She caresses her thumb over the kids face.

CASS (CONT'D)
Don't worry, dad. I'm coming...

INT. CASS' HOME- NIGHT

Cass walks down the stairs, still gazing at the photo. Yet she trips a little and the picture floats down, right in front of the bookcase.

Cass groans. She reaches down to grab the photo.

Suddenly, a wind coming from behind the bookcase flaps the photo. Cass stops and narrows her eyes.

There is a small gap behind the bookcase which is blowing cool air. Cass leans in and puts her hand out to feel it, recoiling when it hits her.

She snatches the photo and peers at the bookcase. There are gaps all around it.

It's hiding something.

Cass puts the photo in her back pocket. She grabs the edges and pushes. After a moment...

CRREEAK.

The bookcase moves out of the way. Behind the bookcase is a dark tunnel leading down. Cool air is blowing from somewhere deep.

Cass ponders whether to explore. She shakes her head and walks away.

CASS
Nope.

A beat.

Cass comes back to the tunnel with a flashlight.

CASS (CONT'D)
Ah, fuck it.

She takes a deep breath and walks in.

EXT. MILLIOS- NIGHT

Dane looks through night vision binoculars at Cass' home. He is looking out from a small grassy patch hidden by bushes.

Pause. He peers back to a stoic teenage girl with brown hair in a ponytail, looking at a beeping machine.

This is RIO.

DANE
You sure that's an entrance?

RIO
Unless this thing is broken again,
yeah. Should be a straight shot to the
chamber.

DANE
Let's hope Eyon didn't get to it
first.

RIO
Doubtful. Do they even know these
tunnels exist?

DANE
Mmm.

Dane scans the streets. Empty.

With a heave he gets up and stretches. He puts on his fox mask.

DANE (CONT'D)
Welp. You ready?

Rio puts on a blue hawk mask.

RIO
I guess.

She stands up and follows Dane.

INT. TUNNELS- NIGHT

Cass wanders through the pitch-black tunnels. Her hands shudder. Her eyes dart around.

CASS

H-hello?

Ancient metal columns hold up the increasingly cramped passageways. Strange, ancient words are written on them.

The path branches. Cass looks at both paths and continues down the left.

She continues walking. Eventually she comes across a path with a bright cyan light emanating from it. Cass turns off her flashlight and walks into the light.

INT. IRON HEART CHAMBER- NIGHT

Cass is blinded by the intense light. As her eyes adjust she realizes she's in a massive circular room.

In the center of the room is a giant machine shaped like a human heart. Metal pipes crisscross over top of it and into the ceiling. A strange circular symbol is on the center of the machine.

Surrounding the machine is a shallow running stream that's glowing cyan. Small metal plinths stick out of the stream.

THUMP THUMP. THUMP THUMP.

A slow metallic groaning sounding like a heartbeat comes from the inscrutable machine.

Cass gulps. She looks behind her before tepidly stepping out into the room. She walks around in confusion.

She peers at one of the plinths. In the top is an opening filled with water and holding a strange computer chip-like device. Around the opening is another foreign sentence:

'DAI VONA MISKOS IL NUREN'.

INT. TUNNELS- NIGHT

Dane and Rio walk down the tunnels. Rio still has her face buried in the machine. She lets out an exasperated sigh.

RIO
Gods, how long are we gonna walk for?

DANE
Until we get there.

RIO
No thanks. I'm going back to Fort New Dawn.

DANE
Careful. I'm gonna tell Markus you went AWOL.

Rio takes a step back. If you could see her face you'd see the sweat. Dane laughs and puts his hands behind his head.

DANE (CONT'D)
Nah. He doesn't have to know jack.

RIO
(grumbling)
Don't even joke about that.

DANE
But you do need an attitude adjustment.

RIO
Sure, dad.

DANE
Maybe I *should've* left you back at the fort if I knew you'd be so sassy.

RIO
Go ahead. You don't need *my* help to die down here.

DANE
Thanks.

Rio chuckles.

INT. IRON HEART CHAMBER- NIGHT

Cass gazes into the plinth. She reaches for the device at the bottom...

SHINK!

A mechanical vice pops up and grabs her arm tight. Cass tries to pull away but she can't. The machine has her arm directly over the plinth.

Cass begins to panic. She pulls harder, but it's no use. The machine begins to beat faster.

VRRRRR.

The device rises out of the water. The plinth begins to glow.

The machine is almost hyperventilating now:

THUMPTHUMPTHUMPTHUMP.

As soon as the device touches Cass' wrist...

VOOOOOM!!!!

A bright light. Cass loses consciousness.

CUT TO BLACK

Pause.

FADE IN:

INT. IRON HEART CHAMBER- NIGHT

Cass slowly blinks her eyes open. She groans. Her hand comes to her temple, but she pauses when she notices a glowing light.

She pulls her hand back. Inserted into the skin of her wrist is a small computer chip with the same symbol as the machine. It pulsates with a cyan light.

Cass looks at it in horror.

INT. TUNNELS- NIGHT

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP.

Rio stops. Her machine is screaming.

RIO

Hold up.

Pause. Rio looks at the screen. Then the tunnel. Then back at the screen.

She sprints down the tunnel.

DANE

Wh-- By the Tower, wait up!

Dane runs after her.

INT. IRON HEART CHAMBER- NIGHT

Rio runs into the room to find Cass struggling to pry off the chip in her arm: tugging on it, biting it, whatever works.

It doesn't.

RIO

HEY!

Cass turns.

CASS

Wha?

Rio runs at Cass, grabbing her and pinning her to the wall with a THUD.

CASS (CONT'D)

Ow! What the hell!?

RIO

Who are you?

CASS

Who are *you*?

RIO

Where are the other EMEs?

CASS

EMEs? What are you talking about?

RIO

Aren't you with Eyon?

CASS

Are you fucking kidding me? No!

RIO

Then how'd you know about the Iron Heart?

CASS

Iron-?

Cass looks behind Rio at the machine.

CASS (CONT'D)

Heart. Huh, I guess it does look like
a H-

Rio slams her into the wall again.

CASS (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Aaaghh! Fuck!

RIO

Who are you and how do you know about
this place?

CASS

I'm nobody! I didn't even know this
place existed! Look, I was just
chilling in my house when I found this
weird tunnel behind my bookcase, so I
went in. Yeah I know, probably a
horrible idea.

Rio is livid.

CASS (CONT'D)

And I was walking for what felt like
forever when I found this giant room
with THAT thing. Then I got my hand
stuck in this claw-thing and I passed
out, and when I woke up--

Rio looks at Cass' wrist. Her eyes widen.

RIO

The Master Chip.

CASS

What?

Rio lets go of Cass and she falls to the ground.

CASS (CONT'D)

Ow!

Rio pulls out a phone and starts texting. Cass pops her head
right into Rio's face.

CASS (CONT'D)
Wait, wait, wait. Who are you
messaging?

Rio scoots away in disgust but Cass follows.

RIO
None of your business. Back off.

Cass gasps.

CASS
Wait! Are you MRF?

Rio glares at her but doesn't respond. Cass beams.

CASS (CONT'D)
Oh my gods, you are! What's it like?

RIO
Get away from me! You're our prisoner
now!

Dane barges in, panting.

DANE
Gods, Rio. How... are you... so...
fast?

Dane pauses and makes eye contact with the two girls.

CASS
Rio's a cute name.

Rio ignores her.

RIO
We're looking for a Master Chip,
right?

DANE
Yeah.

RIO
Well...

She lifts up Cass' wrist. Cass is so small she almost gets
tossed around.

RIO (CONT'D)
We found one.

Pause. Dane struggles to take it all in.

DANE
Ok, great. Who's she?

Cass grins and waves.

CASS
Hi, my name's Cass-

Rio drops her again.

RIO
Not EME, thankfully.

CASS
Can you stop doing that?

Rio walks over to Dane. The two cross their arms and look at Cass.

RIO
So what do we do with her?

Cass rubs her head and gives them a meek smile.

EXT. MILLIOS- NIGHT

EMEs gather outside Cass' home. EME CAPTAIN CELESTIA stares daggers at the building. She is lauded in awards and draped in a gaudy purple cape.

An EME walks up to her.

EME
On your orders, Captain.

Celestia nods.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA
Let's go.

INT. IRON HEART CHAMBER- NIGHT

Cass sits against the wall, watching the two revolutionaries pace around. Her hands are cuffed.

DANE
Ok, the Iron Heart has to have some way to get these things off, right?

RIO
Even if it did, it would take way too long.

DANE
Shit.

Dane continues to pace.

Pause. Rio snaps her fingers.

RIO
I got it!

Rio points her gun at Cass.

RIO (CONT'D)
Let's just kill her!

Cass puts her arms up. Dane steps in front of Rio.

CASS
Whoa, whoa, whoa!

DANE
Are you kidding me? No way!

RIO
What? She doesn't seem to be anyone notable.

CASS
Rude.

RIO
We just kill her and cut the Chip off the body. We can frame it on Eyon. Easy peasy!

CASS
What the hell is wrong with you!?

DANE
We're *not* killing her, Rio.

Rio groans and puts her gun away.

RIO
Could we at least cut off her arm then?

CASS
(recoiling)
No!

DANE
No!

RIO
You guys are no fun.

Dane shakes his head and sighs.

DANE
Ok. Kirk used to be a mechanic, right?
We can take the girl to him and he can
remove the Chip.

Cass' ears perk up.

RIO
Hmmm. I don't know. Could be risky.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

The three turn. Footsteps are coming towards them. Lots of
footsteps.

DANE
Well, we don't really have time to
think of something better.

CASS
What's that?

Dane puts on his mask and unsheathes two butterfly knives.

DANE
Eyon.

Dane hoists Cass to her feet and the three look for an exit.
The EMEs burst into the chamber and begin firing.

RIO
There!

Rio points to an archway and the three make a break for it.

INT. TUNNELS- CONTINUOUS

The three rush into the tunnels. They weave through the tight
passageways, narrowly avoiding gunfire from the EMEs hot on
their trail.

CASS
Is every mission like this?

RIO
We got lucky, usually there's MORE
gunfire!

They round a corner where an EME loads a rocket launcher. The three stop in their tracks.

FWOOSH!

The rocket flies at the three. Cass extends her arm.

CASS
N000!!!

Time seems to slow.

The Master Chip glows.

The rocket shakes, then turns around and hurdles back at the EME.

ROCKET EME
Oh shi--

KABOOM.

The rocket explodes, sending rocks and dust everywhere. The tunnels shudder.

Rio looks at Cass, dumbfounded.

RIO
How did you do that?

Cass looks at the still-glowing chip.

CASS
I- I don't know.

DANE
We can figure that out later. Let's
go!

The three backtrack and turn down another hall.

They are stopped again as a crowd of EMEs march down the hallway towards them.

DANE (CONT'D)
Dammit. Let's double back to the
Heart!

CASS
Too late for that.

Cass points at the EMEs approaching from behind. Soon enough,
they're surrounded.

The Captain Celestia parts the crowd.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA
Dane Furlong. I gotta admit, this was
easier than I thought.

DANE
Do I know you?

The Captain Celestia stomps her feet.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA
Of course you do! I'm Captain
Celestia, we fought at Fort Hope!

DANE
Umm...

Captain Celestia lifts up her helmet, revealing a scar over
her left eye.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA
You cut out my eye!?

Dane snaps his fingers.

DANE
Oh yeah! Now I remember!

Captain Celestia perks her chin up in pride.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA
That's right!

Celestia strikes a pose. Her cape flows behind her.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA (CONT'D)
The Scourge of Eternia! The Golden
Queen!! The-

RIO
(aside)
This chick's kinda crazy.

DANE
Yeah, I know.

Celestia fumes.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA
Gah! Whatever, just hand over the
girl!

She brandishes a gaudy Katar. The EMEs lower their guns.

Dane lifts his knives.

DANE
Duck.

CASS
Huh?

Rio forces Cass to duck. Dane throws his knives.

They arc around the EMEs and cut their heads clean off.

Yet they don't touch Celestia, who leaps to the floor.

SHINK! SHINK!

Dane thrusts his hands out. Two bracers on his wrists glow
purple.

VRRRRR.

His knives come flying back into his hands.

Cass looks at the bodies in shock. Rio hoists her to her
feet.

RIO
You ok?

CASS
(dazed)
Uhh... yeah.

Rio pulls her along.

Captain Celestia stands up and hoists her katar.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA

W-wait!

Captain Celestia charges at Dane, who deftly dodges and knocks her down with a punch to the ribs.

Cass watches her writhe.

CASS

What we do about her?

RIO

Eh, just leave her.

The three run through the tunnels.

Celestia struggles to her feet.

CAPTAIN CELESTIA

Hey! You haven't heard the last of
Cap-!

She faints.

CUT TO:

INT. SUNDOWN- NIGHT

The bar is empty. Kirk ambles about, cleaning up tables and wiping down cups.

BRRRING.

KIRK

We're clo-

The door opens and in walk Cass, Rio, and Dane. They're haggard and out of breath.

KIRK (CONT'D)

By the Tower, the hell happened?

DANE

We ran into some EMEs.

RIO

Among other things.

Rio yanks Cass' arm in front of Kirk. Kirk examines the strange glowing chip in her arm.

KIRK
What is that?

DANE
The Master Chip. We came to grab it,
but-

RIO
She got it instead.

Kirk shoots a mean glare at Cass, who shrinks.

Kirk sighs.

KIRK
So what do you want me to do?

RIO
Tear it from her arm.

DANE
Take it off her... *gently*.

KIRK
I'll see what I can do.

CUT TO:

INT. SUNDOWN- NIGHT

Cass has her arm out on a table full of tools.

Kirk picks up a pair of pliers.

KIRK
What'd you do this time?

CASS
I guess I found an ancient machine
that put a magic computer chip in my
arm?

Kirk chuckles and shakes his head.

KIRK
You're always getting into the
craziest trouble.

Kirk tries to pry the Master Chip off, but it's stuck to the
skin.

CASS
Ye- OW!

KIRK
Sorry. This is trickier than I
thought.

Kirk continues pulling, and Cass continues yelling in pain.

KIRK (CONT'D)
So, you got your wish, huh?

CASS
Hm?

KIRK
You found the MRF. What now?

Cass lowers her head.

CASS
Honestly... I don't know. I've been so
caught up in everything, I haven't had
a chance to think.

Kirk leans in.

KIRK
Hey. If you go with them, please
listen to them this time. They're
better people than me.

CASS
C'mon. You don't hold a candle to any
of these guys.

Kirk smiles. Cass smirks.

CASS (CONT'D)
OW!!

KIRK
Sorry.

INT. SUNDOWN BACKROOM- NIGHT

Dane and Rio sit on opposite sides of a door, wincing as Cass
continues to exclaim in pain.

RIO
This doesn't really seem to be
working.

DANE
Apparently not.

Pause.

RIO
So what do we do?

DANE
We bring her in.

RIO
Are you kidding me?

DANE
Look, Rio. That thing could be our
ticket to freedom. We're not just
gonna let her walk.

RIO
What will we tell Markus?

DANE
Exactly what we told Kirk. I'll take
responsibility, and we can lump her in
with the other recruits.

Rio crosses her arms.

RIO
You're gonna get her killed.

Dane puts a reassuring hand on Rio's shoulder.

DANE
It's war. Isn't that always the risk?

Rio looks to the floor solemnly.

INT. SUNDOWN- NIGHT

Kirk and Cass are still at the table. Dozens of tools and
oils are littered across it. The Chip is still on Cass' arm,
a little bloodied.

Kirk is scratching his head. Cass is livid and twitching her
arm in pain.

KIRK
I have no idea what's going on.

CASS
(under her breath)
I've got an idea. You're torturing me.

Rio and Dane walk in.

DANE
Still stuck, huh?

KIRK
(sighing)
Unless you want me to tear her skin
off, this thing's staying with her.

DANE
Figured as much.

Dane walks over to Cass.

DANE (CONT'D)
Cass. You've got two options.

RIO
Three.

Rio pulls out her gun. Dane lowers her arm.

DANE
Two options.

RIO
We stick you on a boat to the
mainland-

DANE
Or you come with us to the Millenium
Revolutionary Front. But if you come
with us, you can't go back. You got
that?

RIO
I'd think about this.

Cass looks down at the Master Chip.

FLASHBACK.

EXT. MILLENIUM GARDENS- EVENING

A young Cass (12) catches a ball thrown by her father, CADEN.

CADEN
Nice going, Cass!

Cass looks at the ball then back at her dad with pride. Caden ruffles her hair.

CADEN (CONT'D)
That's my boy!

Cass looks down awkwardly.

CASS
Heh.

Caden runs back.

CADEN
Ok, go long!

Cass prepares to throw.

BWOOOM!

They stop and look out onto Fallow Street. An Eyni military parade is commencing. Caden grimaces.

CASS
Dad?

CADEN
What's up, kiddo?

CASS
Why do they do that?

CADEN
Ugh. It's just to show their might. A big show for a bunch of cowards.

Cass looks at her dad's balled fists.

CASS
They do it every year. It's really loud.

CADEN
That's the point. But here's the thing, Cass.

Caden kneels and looks at his daughter.

CADEN (CONT'D)
All this noise, this pain... It's
gonna end. We're gonna stop it. These
monsters won't know what hit them.

He takes out a ripped slip of paper with the Millenian star
on it and hands it to Cass.

CADEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
It's gonna be up to heroes like us to
save the world, right?

Caden winks. Cass beams. She looks back at the paper with
wide eyes.

INT. SUNDOWN- NIGHT

Cass looks at the Chip in her wrist. She balls her fist.
She stands up and looks at Dane with fierce eyes.

CASS
I'm not leaving my home. I want to
fight. I'm gonna be a hero.

Dane grins. He pats Cass on her shoulder.

DANE
That's the spirit. Well Cass, welcome
to the revolution.

Cass beams. Rio looks away.

INT. SUNDOWN BEDROOM A- NIGHT

The room is small but cozy. A single warm lamp by the bed is
the only source of light.

Cass smiles and flops onto the bed with a hearty sigh. She
pulls out her family photo.

CASS
I did it, Dad. I'm gonna be a soldier.
And now I can find you.

Cass sits up, puts the photo on the nightstand, and gazes out
the window at the Capitol.

The red-and-blue flag of Millenium blows softly in the wind.

INT. KING'S TOWER THRONE ROOM- NIGHT

A spacious throne room.

Dimly lit lamps flicker along the approach to a small desk and throne. A chessboard peeks out from loose papers scattered on the desk. A large window overlooks the city of Aegis, capital of Eyon.

King ORION looks out through the window. A tall, imposing man draped in a green cape and adorned in gold. A crown sits atop his head. He stares at the city below.

A King surveying his domain.

The double doors swing open. In walks SITCH- a grizzled man with a peppered beard and a perpetual scowl.

He approaches the throne and bows.

SITCH

My King. You called for me?

Pause. Orion sighs.

ORION

It appears your plan didn't quite go through.

Sitch growls.

SITCH

Damn Celestia. I can't believe I trusted such an idiot.

ORION

Which is why I called you back.

Orion turns to face Sitch. His face is hardened, filled with conviction. He walks to Sitch, slowly.

ORION (CONT'D)

It's clear now that this requires a more intensive approach.

Orion stops.

ORION (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Are the Kingshelm ready?

Sitch grins maliciously.

SITCH

Always.

INT. BUNKHOUSE- NIGHT

Lights are out in a windowless room full of beds. A radio with a beeping light lays on one of the beds. A hand reaches out and grabs it.

END OF PILOT