

**IN THE SHADOWS OF NOVEMBER**

EPISODE FIVE  
THE ROCKET'S RED GLARE

Written by Bill Albert

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EXT. ST LOUIS TRADING POST

This is a big and complex trading post. Tents are numbered, lanes are lettered, there is more order here than any outpost before. There is also a lot more variety. "Fallout free clothes" are for sale and trade. "Gas cans \$30." "Full Gas Cans \$70." "Antibiotics: \$100 pack of 12." "Light Bulbs \$75 each."

There are signs that ban weapons dealers. Most of the people are wearing mismatched but comfortable clothes that they either begged, traded, borrowed or stole in various degrees of quality. A pair of jeans and a tuxedo jacket, different color shoes, or even two left shoes as a pair to get by.

There is also a very large military presence. US military patrols canvas the area. Very sharp and in control.

EXT. HAND TOOL TENT 252

There is a TOOL DEALER, male, 30s, overalls, tool belt, pencils, with a tent of hammers, screw drivers and various hand tools.

NOVEMBER

That wouldn't be bad. Always  
need a wrench with a bike.  
I suppose there are no cutters?

TOOL DEALER

Well, no saws or anything. Those  
are really the first to go.

NOVEMBER

No cutters? Something smaller?  
With a single edge?

TOOL DEALER

(looks her over)

Well, we do have something you  
might need.

The Tool Dealer sets down two screwdrivers and stealthily puts down a thin but effective hand knife between them. Definitely not a knife you'd use at dinner.

NOVEMBER

Definitely what I need on the road.

TOOL DEALER

What do you have?

November reaches into her coat pockets and pulls out a can with a clean label signifying beef stew.

NOVEMBER

Guaranteed.

TOOL DEALER

Fair enough. I'll take it.

NOVEMBER

Any accessories?

The Tool Dealer smiles and puts a leather knife sheath and a strap on the counter.

TOOL DEALER

That would look nice strapped to your boot.

NOVEMBER

It would be better strapped inside my boot.

The Tool Dealer nods and November pulls another can from her bag, drops it, and bends over to pick it up. At the same time, she slides the knife in its sheath into her boot. She stands and gives the second can of stew to the dealer.

TOOL DEALER

It's a pleasure doing business with you. Any more stew?

NOVEMBER

I might be able to get some.

TOOL DEALER

If you can feel free to bring it this way. Anything the cockroaches haven't got to yet is valuable.

NOVEMBER

You bet!

They smile and she walks away. She's calm and exploring the area. Listening and watching people when she suddenly gets bumped into by a big, dirty thug.

BLACK:

TITLE OVER:

St. Louis, Missouri, March 14th  
125 days since the bombs

November looks at him defensively. Tyler smiles and she takes a step back. His hand slips towards her and she glares at him and warns him off. He quickly turns and exits.

There is a tent with several signs around it offering free, pure clean water. She gets in line and waits patiently, turning when she feels a tug on her coat. To see SHELLY, female, 7, looking up at her.

SHELLY

Hello.

NOVEMBER

Hello, how are you?

SHELLY

Still cold.

NOVEMBER

Yes, it is a little chilly but  
it's only March. April sunshine  
will come soon. What's your name?

SHELLY

I'm Shelly. What's yours?

NOVEMBER

I'm called November.

SHELLY'S DAD, male, 30s, joins them and picks up Shelly.

SHELLY

(to her Dad)

Daddy, this my friend. She's  
got a really cool name. This  
is November.

SHELLY'S DAD  
Hello...November?

NOVEMBER  
That's right.

SHELLY'S DAD  
Nice to meet you.

The line moves forward, and they get fresh cups of water free from a vendor. They pause as they drink them.

SHELLY  
It's still cold.

SHELLY'S DAD  
Are you from St. Louis?

NOVEMBER  
(pauses)  
No, I'm just passing through.

SHELLY  
(innocently)  
Don't go to east side.

NOVEMBER  
(smiles, points)  
Okay, I'll stay west side.

SHELLY  
(points in the other  
direction)  
That way.

They all laugh.

SHELLY'S DAD  
Seriously. In case you don't know,  
east side of the river is gangland  
now.

NOVEMBER  
Really?

SHELLY'S DAD

Yes. Even before 11/9 it had a reputation. Afterwards it became more truth than fiction.

NOVEMBER

Ok, I'll stay clear.

SHELLY'S DAD

You'll be happier if you did.

(to Shelly)

Finish your drink and we'll go find Mommy.

NOVEMBER

Good luck. Thanks for the advice.

SHELLY

Bye, bye, November.

November puts down the cup and walks away. Shelly watches her as long as she can.

November is across the lane when something gets her attention.

EXT. CLOTHES DEALER 217

BONNIE

Move on.

TYLER

I made a fair offer.

BONNIE

Not good enough for one of my girls.

REBECCA, female, 19, gorgeous, shakes her head.

REBECCA

Even for twice that I wouldn't do you.

BONNIE

And she's got the final say. Rules of St. Louis.

BONNIE'S BOYS, males, teens, though, move in.

TYLER

I made a good offer for her.

November steps in front of Tyler and glares at him.

NOVEMBER

I wasn't going to let you get a cheap feel out of me. I sure as hell will not let you force your way onto her.

TYLER

None of your business.

NOVEMBER

I'm making it my business.

Bonnie, Rebecca, and Bonnie's Boys smile. Tyler decides to take charge and tries to push November out of the way. Bad choice. Before he's aware Tyler is several feet away on his ass in a daze. Innocent bystanders in the area move out. Rebecca runs over to November.

REBECCA

Come with me.

BONNIE

Hurry get back.

November looks at them and follows their lead. Bonnie lets them in her tent and Rebecca leads her out of sight.

INT. CLOTHES DEALER 217

They are behind a fold in the tent but can still hear what is happening.

NOVEMBER

I don't understand.

REBECCA

(whispers)

The Rules of St. Louis.

KINSELL (O.S.)

You know the rules against fighting here. What happened?

TYLER (O.S.)

We was making a deal. Made an offer she didn't like and got hit for it.

KINSELL (O.S.)

Is that true?

BONNIE (O.S.)

From this little rat's point of view. Yes.

KINSELL (O.S.)

If I take this little rat's point of view I'm going to have to shut you down. There are new rules in St. Louis and you know it!

NOVEMBER

(whisper)

Rules of St. Louis?

Rebecca grabs November by the hand. There is a small alley between the backs of the tents and Rebecca leads November several tents away before slowing.

REBECCA

Yes, there are certain rules that were set up early after the bombs between the City Council and the military commanders. People like that creep are to be removed. No contact. No takedowns. You could be banned for striking him.

NOVEMBER

How much trouble am I in?



REBECCA

I think you will be fine. Bonnie will not turn you over to them. She'll keep them looking the other way. Just try not to get into another incident.

NOVEMBER

Maybe you should tell me some of these rules.

REBECCA

Will you follow me back to my place? Stay out of the way for a while?

November nods and they walk off.

They travel through the outpost. Scenes of tents and people trading goods.

REBECCA (V.O.)

All the weapons dealers are on the outer ring and you can only check with them when you are on the way out. No weapons coming in.

NOVEMBER (V.O.)

How much screening do they do?

REBECCA (V.O.)

95...85...70% on a good day.

They are eating at one of the tents.

NOVEMBER (V.O.)

I knew that I had a good trade because they still had the labels on them.

REBECCA (V.O.)

Exactly. In most cases the cockroaches have eaten the labels off. You are kind of on your own. Beef stew or dog food. Good luck.

NOVEMBER (V.O.)

You'd be surprised.

INT. REBECCA'S APT - DAY

It's small but comfortable considering supplies are short and expensive. She's made the best out of things and kept it clean and safe. There is a cat on the sofa. November and Rebecca enter and close and lock the door.

REBECCA

By now it is all forgotten.  
The outpost is too big and  
there is too much going on  
for them to worry about  
what happened ten minutes  
ago, let alone an hour.

NOVEMBER

So, I can just stay out of  
trouble for a while.

REBECCA

I get the impression it is  
not easy for you to stay out  
of trouble.

NOVEMBER

I hear that a lot.

They laugh and relax.

REBECCA

Maybe that's a good thing.  
At least, for a troublemaker  
You were on the right side.

NOVEMBER

That guy was an idiot. He  
needed to be taught.

REBECCA

Yes, some attitudes never  
change. Especially about sex.  
Especially from men.

NOVEMBER  
Men and Tyler?

REBECCA  
(smiles, points at cat)  
Here, this is Mr. Giggles.

November reaches down to scratch the cat's ears. The cat gets up and leaves. November looks guiltily at Rebecca.

NOVEMBER  
He doesn't like me.

REBECCA  
You know, it is hard to tell.  
He is a cat.

NOVEMBER  
Well, guess so.

There is an uncomfortable moment where November seems lost and unsure. Rebecca moves closer to her.

REBECCA  
(runs fingers through  
November's hair)  
Well, no offence, but you could  
use a good wash.

NOVEMBER  
Well, I guess, too.

REBECCA  
It is like a lot of things  
isn't it?

NOVEMBER  
What do you mean?

REBECCA  
There is so many things that  
we used to just do. I used to  
just get in my car and drive  
somewhere. It never seemed  
like such a big deal. After  
11/9 I had to be more careful  
(MORE)

REBECCA (CONT'D)  
and think about it, have a  
reason, decide about exactly  
when and where I could use  
it. It is funny how I think  
I miss that the most. What about you?

November suddenly looks very sad.

NOVEMBER  
Me, well...?

REBECCA  
(hugs her)  
I am sorry.

NOVEMBER  
(holds her)  
It's just..before 11/9...?

REBECCA  
It is okay.

November starts to speak but Rebecca kisses her gently on the lips. November responds by pulling her close. Finally, Rebecca stands and offers her a hand. November takes it and follows Rebecca out.

INT. REBECCA'S SHOWER - DAY

November and Rebecca together cleaning and enjoying each other.

INT. REBECCA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Wrapped in towels, November is brushing Rebecca's hair.

REBECCA  
I noticed your bruise on  
your leg.

NOVEMBER  
Road rash. I got ambushed a few  
days back.

REBECCA  
You must have seen some pretty  
crazy stuff out there.

NOVEMBER

One of the first places I stopped, Dawson, Georgia, they were incredibly nice and helpful. I was a complete stranger, just stumbled into town, and they helped me out a lot. Some places are better than others. I imagine you've seen some pretty crazy stuff in this town.

REBECCA

Occasionally, outside of the trading post, things happen. With the US army and what is left of the PD here things are mostly calm.

(they change places, Rebecca is brushing November's hair)

As long as we do not have Torchlight here.

NOVEMBER

I've heard.

Rebecca sees a bruise on November's scalp but remains quiet about it.

REBECCA

Us, too. They were quickly brought in after the bombs to help police the areas that the US army could not. It was always such a surprise. I mean they were moved in so fast after 11/9. I suppose, being mercenaries, they have to be prepared, but this was almost instantly. At first it seemed okay, it was a lot like the way the army worked, but there were rumors. People coming through here heard things. Apparently, they are not as disciplined

(MORE)

REBECCA (CONT'D)

as US army. One guy, a former ranger, told me he almost was recruited by them, but he decided against it. He said he kept asking about lots of gray areas in their procedures. It worried him. Operating something that big and powerful without a clear set of rules is dangerous, he said. I have always been glad Torchlight never got assigned here.

INT. REBECCA'S BATHROOM - DAY

A few moments have passed. Rebecca opens up her cabinet filled with several prescription drug bottles. She looks at them, they are almost empty and sighs sadly.

INT. REBECCA'S APT - DAY

November is dressed, feeling better, and Rebecca comes in and sits down. It's obvious she's upset.

REBECCA

(dejected)

I better get back to work.

NOVEMBER

What's wrong?

REBECCA

Need the money. I suppose that will never change no matter how many bombs go off. Especially with meds going for so much.

NOVEMBER

I've seen some of the prices they're asking for. What do you need?

REBECCA

Believe it or not I am diabetic.  
I got it very young. I was not  
smart about it. Metformin, the  
usual.

NOVEMBER

(comforts her)

I'm sorry I can't help.

REBECCA

Worst part of it is there are  
plenty of meds out there. There  
is a warehouse on East Side  
loaded with meds people need.  
The military has been trying  
to negotiate for them but no  
luck. They just cannot through.

NOVEMBER

How hard is it to get to east  
side?

REBECCA

Getting there can be easy. Getting  
out is the hardest part.

EXT. EADS RAIL BRIDGE

November is carefully working her way across the bridge a few  
steps at a time. She is above the Mississippi river and it's a  
long fall. She also needs to be careful and make sure she's not  
seen.

She's mostly across the bridge when she's out of luck. There're  
several gang members stationed under the bridge. She's debating  
if she can make it over them when they all stop and look to the  
south. She sees a good-sized military convoy as it begins  
crossing the Poplar/Interstate bridge.

The gang members watch her cross and she is able to get down and  
out of the way without being noticed.

EXT. ST. LOUIS RAIL YARDS

November doesn't get very far when she makes a mistake. She comes around a parked box car when a BUM, male, 55, jumps out and attacks her. He's big and heavy but she has speed and agility on her side, so it isn't much of a fight.

NOVEMBER  
(furious)  
DO NOT DO THAT!

BUM  
All ri-. All ri-.

November is glaring at him in anger. He's surrendering but she's still got him in her grasp.

NOVEMBER  
(pulls the knife from  
her boot)  
One cut!

BUM  
(frightened)  
Never, never, never. No more.

November looks like she's about to cut him open. They pause as they hear the explosions and gun fight from the ambush. She is distant for a moment. Finally, she slowly backs down.

NOVEMBER  
Don't do that to anyone.  
If you do, I will find you.  
I will open you.

BUM  
Yes, ma'am. No ma'am. Never again  
ma'am.

NOVEMBER  
Belmont?  
(he stumbles, confused)  
Where's Belmont Avenue?



BUM

(coughing)

Keep going east on Riv- Park,  
all the way turn ri-, um, left,  
at 16th. That's take you to it.

November is about to leave but there is a flash of anger and she elbows the bum hard. He drops and she is gone before he can get back up.

EXT. WAREHOUSE ON BELMONT AVE - DUSK

The sun is going down and there are plenty of shadows for November to move. She sees the warehouse she's looking for and is surprised to see it is unguarded. As she gets closer, she sees that bars, boards and changes have been used to seal all the doors and windows. She looks and sees a fire escape from the 4th floor to above the street.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

There is a third-floor fire door that has been opened and is now propped closed by a board and some boxes. November is looking at some of the containers to see if she recognizes any of the names. She doesn't and is frustrated when suddenly she notices a man standing there watching her. She stops, unsure, but doesn't seem frightened or threatened by him. MALCOLM, male, 50's, ruffled and a bit of madness in his eyes, approaches her.

MALCOLM

May I help you, miss?

NOVEMBER

(looks him up and down)

I'm looking for some medications,  
to help my friend.

MALCOLM

Medications? Of course, and what  
is wrong with your friend?

NOVEMBER

She's diabetic, and she's low on  
what she's got.

MALCOLM

Type one or type two?

NOVEMBER

Well, she's very young, but  
doesn't take insulin.

MALCOLM

Type two then. She's very  
young? Quite sad. Follow me.

(MORE)

November follows him as they walk slowly through the warehouse.  
MALCOLM seems totally unaware of what has happened outside.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

A good portion of the medications  
were loaded up in the vans on  
the main floor. They were going  
to be shipped out on the 10th.  
When it happened, you know, boom,  
that all got forgotten.

NOVEMBER

I understand.

MALCOLM

Watch much sports? Well, looking  
forward to the baseball season  
starting soon. Personally, I'm  
hoping for the White Sox this  
year. Just don't tell anyone  
in the neighborhood about that.

NOVEMBER

I'll keep your secret.

MALCOLM

Who's your team?

NOVEMBER

White Sox all the way.

MALCOLM

(laughs)

Good girl. Have you heard anything  
about the satellites?

NOVEMBER

Um, not recently.

MALCOLM

Been having such trouble getting a signal since, well, you know, boom. Just as long as they get everything working again by opening day.

NOVEMBER

I'm sure they will.

MALCOLM

Occasionally I get a movie channel. Always good to see the classics again.

NOVEMBER

Always, good.

MALCOLM

Hitchcock, you know?  
Alfred Hitchcock. Great one.

November looks as if she has no idea what he's talking about.

NOVEMBER

Of course.

They get to a new area with medications stacked along the walls and shelves.

MALCOLM

Prescription?

(she hands him a note)

Doctor's handwriting. Always terrible. Remember one doctor, you'd swear he was sending you ancient Sanskrit. Finally, got a good nurse who could translate everything into English before she gave it to me.

(laughs)

She was a pretty one.

He goes off and starts getting the meds together. November looks around and sees the area he appears to be living in. A few

blankets, alarm clock, mostly boxes of health bars, etc. There are also pictures of MALCOLM, much younger, with a family.

MALCOLM wanders back carrying a backpack full of medications and hands it to November. She is surprised it is so much.

MALCOLM

Well, you know, boom.

NOVEMBER

Thank you, from my friend and me.

MALCOLM

You are very welcome. You might want to go out the south fire door. Less of a drop.

November looks at him for a long time, a soft spot in her heart, then exits.

EXT. WAREHOUSE

The fire door opens on the third floor and November, carrying a bag of meds over her shoulder, exits the building. She comes down the stair quickly but quietly and releases the ladder above the street. It ends five feet short of the ground. November isn't worried, climbs down the ladder, then drops the rest of the way.

She lands standing up but is immediately caught in the lights of a truck coming around the corner. She freezes with no where close enough to get to. The truck stops and the driver's side door opens. HUNTER, male, 20's large and heavily armed, slowly walks towards her.

HUNTER

Must be my lucky night.  
A bag of meds stolen from one of the most important warehouses on both sides of the river. It's just a question of where the rewards will come from.

NOVEMBER

You're forgetting one thing.

HUNTER

I doubt that.

NOVEMBER

You're going to have to get  
it from me first.

HUNTER

(smiles)

I'm the one with the weapon.

NOVEMBER

(smiles)

You think.

Despite everything Hunter is stopped by this. He's not used to her confidence and resistance. She shuffles her feet just a bit and he looks at her boots for a weapon. She takes advantage of the distraction jumps quickly in his direction. He steps aside and swings to counter her, but he is briefly blinded by the lights from his own truck. He fires at movement. He takes a step to the clear, his eyes adjust, and he sees November sprint around the corner out of sight.

November is running hard up the street. As Hunter follows in his truck she turns into an alley. Hunter skids to a stop with the truck, bright lights on, shining into the alley. He sees it's a dead end. She has to be hiding in the dumpsters, doors steps or drains. He gets out confident he has her trapped.

Hunter fires several shots at random scaring rats and cats in the alley.

HUNTER

No place to run!

He slowly stalks down the alley. Kicks at a dumpster then fires into it blindly. He looks inside, nothing.

Shadows by a door. Litter built up against the door for some time. It wasn't recently opened.

Hunter sees shadows move and fires in the direction. He stops and realizes it's the bag November was carrying swinging from a hanger. He swings the weapon back and forth and smiles as he takes the bag off a hook. Looks around him. Nothing.

Feeling victorious he opens the bag to inspect his treasure. Reaches in and there is the squeak of a rat inside the bag. Finger bitten, he throws the bag away and growls in anger.

November swings down from a ledge and kicks Hunter hard. He drops the weapon and takes a few swings at her.

NOVEMBER  
(taunting him)  
Rat bites not good.  
(ducks a swing)  
Who knows what was in the bite.  
(MORE)

Hunter sees his weapon and lunges for it, but she kicks it out of reach, and they struggle for it.

NOVEMBER  
Wonder how long before rabies  
takes effect.  
(MORE)

It's working. Hunter's starting to worry. Out of desperation he kicks at her a few times, she rolls away, and he runs as fast as he can back to his truck.

November gets to her feet as Hunter gets inside his truck. He floors it at her and she jumps aside as the truck crashes into a dumpster. He reverses the truck and drives away.

November lets things quiet. Makes sure no one else is coming. She goes to a spot where the meds she had in the bag are stashed and picks them up. She turns the bag inside out and fills it with the meds. She sees the rat scurry off.

NOVEMBER  
(to rat)  
Thanks.

EXT. RAILROAD YARD

November is working her way back to the rail bridge. There is a lot of activity in the area and she slows and hides as some gang members go past. She decides to follow them and come to a stop to see their operation.

She is shocked to see them preparing a handheld rocket launcher. It's clear they are planning to attack the arch. Several of the gang members move away leaving three men, all 20ish, with the launcher.

They are debating who should get to use the launcher and it allows November to move in unnoticed.

GANG #1  
I get to fire it.

GANG #2  
I get to.

GANG #3  
Me.

GANG #1  
Me.

GANG #2  
Why you?

GANG #1  
I'm the oldest.

GANG #2  
I've been a member the longest.

GANG #1  
I'm the biggest.

GANG #3  
I'll do it.

GANG #1 and #2  
Why you?

GANG #3  
(to #1)  
You're blind as a bat.  
(to #2)  
You haven't figured out what  
you're shooting at yet.

GANG #1  
Well, he is right about that.

GANG #2

Well you could point it out to me.

NOVEMBER (O.C.)

Well, boys, I'll tell you what!  
(MORE)

They turn to see November holding the rocket launcher.

NOVEMBER (CONT'D)

I think I should take care of it.

(points the launcher in their direction)

Remember, you don't have to out run the rocket?

There is a rumble nearby as a rocket launcher is fired. They all can't stop from following the glare as the rocket explodes as it hits the arch.

The arch shakes and crumbles. The three members scramble as they disappear and there is some commotion as the group that fired the rocket grab their equipment and run.

She realizes there are others approaching and she spins around as she gets surrounded by Barto and the survivors of his convoy,

Kinsell, Spotta, Tarlow, Benson and Lambert. Their weapons locked and loaded.

BARTO (shouting)

HOLD IT! Before you make a move I will tell you that under emergency powers I have the authority to immediately execute anyone acting as a terrorist against the United States of America.

November freezes as they close in on her.

EXT. SPACE - EARTH - NIGHT

Earth and the scars beneath.



WARLOCK (V.O.)  
Everything just went critical.

897 (V.O.)  
I got it, too.

WARLOCK (V.O.)  
I'm getting references to St.  
Louis.

897 (V.O.)  
More of what happened today?

WARLOCK (V.O.)  
Sounds like it.

897 (V.O.)  
Just when you thought it couldn't  
get any worse.

WARLOCK (V.O.)  
It can always get worse.