

THE RING ZONE

PILOT EPISODE

Written by
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TEASER

INT. ENTERPRISE CITY, ERIKSON LABORATORIES - NIGHT

Sleek but industrial. LOREN ERIKSON (40s), a scientist in grey uniform walks along a dark corridor toward a mechanical white gate brightens with light. The word "ENHANCEMENT" is written on the gate. It opens to a cavernous space, where humans sealed inside high-tech pods. Loren walks through, his gaze forward and cold, toward a huge floor-to-ceiling glass window at the opposite end of the area.

He reaches the window, relaxes, looks down, then SMILES.

Below is a TORTURE PIT. It's walls are hewn rock, original soil of the planet Aten. Sharp outcroppings with grey metallic colors juttred throughout. And among those rocks, stand THIRTEEN ENTERPRISIAN SUPERSOLDIERS, all full-clad in armors. Their faces unseen, but the armors' red electronic "eyes" glow bright. They all look down at the PRISONER (20s, male) in middle of the pit. That prisoner holds a spear, his face full of fear.

ONE SUPERSOLDIER raises up his arm. BOOM!! A flash of electric buzzes and hit the prisoner. He SCREAMS.

FIRST SUPERSOLDIER

A thunder for the Aldrinian.

A SECOND SUPERSOLDIER jumps and drops to ground, lands beside the still convulsing prisoner. The soldier grabs the prisoner, pulls him up, then punches him so hard that the jaw cracked. The OTHER SUPERSOLDIERS just watch.

The second supersoldier keeps on trashing the prisoner until EDWARD GERRANO (30s), Commander of the Third Mechanized Legion, in full armor but helmet off, comes into the pit.

EDWARD

Stop.

The second supersoldier stops.

EDWARD

That's quite enough.

SECOND SUPERSOLDIER

But commander, the prisoner hasn't say anything about the location of the Aldrian kinecannons.

EDWARD

Don't you see he had enough beating?

SECOND SUPERSOLDIER

Yes sir, but he's still alive, and the information haven't been retrieved yet.

EDWARD

At this point, it's pointless.

From above Loren speaks through speakers.

LOREN

Continue with the enhanced interrogation, soldier. We need to know where the Aldrinians hid their kinecannons along the frontlines.

SECOND SUPERSOLDIER

Yes sir.

EDWARD

No, wait.

Edward gazes up toward a wall of rock, which obviously is the glass screen in disguise.

EDWARD

Prefect, we cannot continue with this. There will be no effective results. Either the prisoner will say whatever he thinks we want him to say, or he dies.

LOREN

Well yes, then continue.

EDWARD

I'm sorry Prefect, but I don't see the point for continuing.

LOREN

The points are, commander, is that either we get the correct infos, or the wrong infos, which we can later confirm. Either way the prisoner's corpse will be a great example.

EDWARD

Example? Sir I must object.

LOREN

You can't object to me, commander.

One other supersoldier, KIRA HILSON (30s), drops to the pit ground and approaches Edward.

KIRA

Ed, just do what says.

EDWARD

You know that this is wrong.

KIRA

We need the information. And it's not like Loren will let the prisoner live. He will send his corpse as a banner in the field.

LOREN

Commander, this is a good training for this legion. You're all already among our bests. And knowing when to kill, and for what, is an essential knowledge.

EDWARD

No sir, I don't agree with that.

LOREN

You don't get to disagree, commander.

KIRA

Stop this Ed. You will get us all in trouble.

EDWARD

(ignoring Kira)

Lord Prefect, I insist you let this prisoner go. And let us comb the area again for the kinecannons.

LOREN

No. And you don't you talk like that to me commander.

EDWARD

Oh, what are you going to do, if I don't obey. You're up there while I'm down here with my legionaires.

LOREN
They're not your legionaires
commander, they're Enterprise's,
and also, I can do this.

Suddenly all supersoldiers in the area except Kira raise
their armored arms, point them toward Edward.

EDWARD
Wait, what's this?

KIRA
The Prefect has ordered us to
terminates you Ed.

Kira then also raises her arm toward Edward.

EDWARD
And you too, Kira?

KIRA
I'm sorry Ed.

She shoots a laser beam from the small integrated gun at the
tip her arm.

END OF TEASER

ACT I

EXT. MAGELLAN PLAINS - DAY

Warm and peaceful. JONAH ANDERS (19) lies on his back, arms spread out, looks up toward the orange sky. His blond hair is speckled green and red by grasses. On his right hand is a holo-pad, displaying the location and status of his robotic crop collectors. But his attention is toward the flying snowcrows and the white-orange clouds. The lull in the air makes Jonah sleepy. He starts to doze off.

The holo-pad's alarm RINGS. Jonah lazily pulls up the pad. His friend, ANNA TORRES (20), her long-blond hair seen billowing, is on the holo-screen.

ANNA

Jonah! What the hell you're doing?
Where are you?

Jonah takes his time to answer, still mesmerised by the sky.

JONAH

I... am in heaven. Why?

ANNA

Jonah this is serious. Don't you realize that half of our collectors are way off the area?

Jonah immediately rises, checks his pad. On screen some of the indicators are in red, outside the programmed perimeter.

JONAH

Wait, why?

He swipes hard trying to obtain control of the collectors.

ANNA

Other than because of you daydreaming, it seems that the bots found something they've mistaken for our crops.

Jonah tries to put the robots back under his control, but somehow it does not work.

JONAH

I can't seem to control them.

ANNA

Try rebooting.

JONAH

I have! They're all still not responding.

ANNA

Call all of them back to you then.

JONAH

How can I do that if they're not responding?

ANNA

You're not going to just let them go, aren't you? They're expensive.

JONAH

Of course not. I'm going out there.

Jonah stands then walks toward the area where his robots are. The Magellan Plains stretches as far as human eye can see. In the distance some crop collector robots are seen.

As he approaches, Jonah realizes that something is definitely wrong. Instead of collecting crops, the robots are swirling around senselessly. Some are even stationary.

Jonah brings up his screen to eye-level. Touching them on the holo-pad clearly did not work, so he tries something else.

JONAH

Reset mode, return.

The holographic screen in front of his eyes flashes "ERROR: UNKNOWN MALFUNCTION".

JONAH

Ck. Reset mode, return!

Nothing happens.

JONAH

Anna, my screen says "error: unknown malfunction."

ANNA

There is no such thing in the programming.

JONAH

Not that we know of.

ANNA

No, I know. I'm the one who design the thing remember?

JONAH

And here I thought you're just hanging around the workshop being useless.

ANNA

Would be a waste of my intelligence. What's the situation?

JONAH

Very odd. Same as I mentioned earlier. The bots are out of my control. I'm trying to-

That is when Jonah sees a dark figure lying almost hidden by the grass. In dark armor full of scratches and burn marks, Edward lies unconscious, face down.

ANNA

Jonah, what's wrong?

JONAH

Ummm, I might have found something.

He approaches this new stranger with caution. It is not an everyday thing to encounter strangers outside the city limits, first time for Jonah to see an outsider up close. As he approaches his screen starts to glitch.

JONAH

I'm losing the signal. And my screen is... malfunctioning. Call you back later.

ANNA

Wait Jonah what did you found?

The comm suddenly dies, the screen included. Jonah tries to connect by tapping the holo-pad. But it does not work. Gazes back toward the stranger, his face cannot mask his curiosity. He decides to investigate further.

Slowly he turns Edward's body upward, revealing his pale face. There is no wound, but dried lips and frozen hairs tell an emergency state.

Jonah tries to tweak with Edward's armor. The strange tech confuses him, and he touches the torso first. A holoscreen lights up, showing heartbeat and armor energy infos. Edward's body temperature seems falling. But Jonah finds another feature. It shows that the armor has been emitting interference signal. Jonah turns it off. With it all his devices comes back on. He calls Anna.

JONAH

Anna, prepare the rover and pick me up. I've found something.

ANNA

I kinda hate it when you talk like a commander.

I/E. ROVER - LATER

Jonah drives, while Anna checks on Edward's condition. She seems to be the expert on foreign techs, but all she does now is just checking on the armor's torso holoscreen.

ANNA

He's not from Magellan, I can tell you that much.

JONAH

Yeah I can see that. Anything else? Something more useful.

ANNA

What do you expect me to have from this? I've never seen such armor before.

JONAH

You're the tech genius remember? Figure something out. He might not make it alive in that state.

ANNA

Well, the first thing we must do is to pull him out of this suit.

JONAH

Can you do that here, right now?

ANNA

Impossible. We have to get him to my workshop. I need my complete tools to break this thing open.

JONAH

Okay.

Jonah speeds up. Driving on a dirt road they travel in silence. Beautiful landscape of yellow wheat-like crops spread throughout the area. But in the distance slowly rise the grey buildings of Magellan City, its towers look shimmered by the magnetic shield.

ANNA

But you know we can't do that right?

JONAH

I know how to evade the surveillance. I've done it before.

ANNA

Really? I've never seen you do it. Show me.

JONAH

Bad girl.

Jonah turns up all of his collector robots.

JONAH

Anna, turn on yours too. All of them.

Anna does so from her holo-pad.

ANNA

All on. Where are you going with this? They're all scattered around the plain.

JONAH

Gather them around us, this rover. Make sure they're as tight as possible, but not colliding with each other of course.

Jonah does so by tapping from his pad. Anna does the same, pulls up her screen to her face and control her robots with her eye movements.

All collector robots swarm around the rover, forming a magnificent circle.

ANNA

So you mask your contraband stuffs by the swarm of your robots, to cover their traces?

JONAH

No, not enough. The computer will still be able to detect foreign materials, especially one that big. The armor looks advanced. I don't know what other tricks it has.

ANNA

Now I'm really interested in your illegal tricks.

JONAH

Of course you do. You're as bad as I am. And besides, who is the real tech genius here huh?

Jonah smirks as he swipes his holoscreen. He put all his robots on fast movements and high energy output. The robots swarm like angry bees.

JONAH

Anna, put your collectors the same way as I did.

ANNA

It will damage them.

JONAH

Naah it won't. Well maybe it will, but you can always fix that right?

ANNA

The bill is on you Jonah.

JONAH

Fine. We got a more exciting discovery on our back here. I'll pay you 20 magels for any damage.

ANNA

That only covers like five robots.

JONAH

You'd better hurry, before the Computer notice us.

Anna does what Jonah tells her to do. The combined swarm of robot collectors makes a more impressive sight, as if the rover is surrounded by a red, electronic buzzing halo.

JONAH

Good. This amount of energy will cover any alien machinery signals that armor might emits.

ANNA

I do hope this will work fine Jonah. I'm absolutely not interested to be interrogated by the SS and the Authority.

JONAH

Oh relax, the Security Service
won't even notice. And easy to be
persuaded. What we do have to worry
though, is the Computer.

Anna covers Edward with a blanket.

As they approach the rover computer beeps. Their holo-pad
also beep. The MAGELLAN COMPUTER checks on all traffic.

MAGELLAN COMPUTER

Rover 20134, identify yourself.
Anders, Jonah, Citizen 1069, please
identify yourself. Torres, Anna,
Citizen 1046, please identify
yourself.

JONAH

This is Anders 1069. And Rover
20134. Permission to enter the
city.

ANNA

This is Torres 1046, permission to
enter the city.

Magellan Computer recognizes them by voice. They reach the
imposing city gate, and it automatically opens.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, ENTRANCE CHECKPOINT - SAME

Cavernous, dark, intimidating. The outer gate closes. Inside,
between the outer and inner gate, stand TWO HUMAN GUARDS IN
NAVY BLUE UNIFORMS AND HEAVY ARMS and two humanoid robots,
with eyes as scanners and arms as laserguns. They perform
security check with scanners.

GUARD

Why didn't you both compacted your
collectors?

JONAH

Problems with the programming.

GUARD

Huh, never heard of that before.
These almost fill up the whole
space. You're planning to enter the
city with these uncompacted?

JONAH

Yeah. Sorry about that.

ANNA

We cannot fix this without the proper tools, which we doesn't brought to field, as it would waste space for the crops.

JONAH

And we need to get them as soon as possible. Wouldn't be pretty if some of them explode in here eh?

GUARD

(to the other guard)
Are you done with the checks?

ASSISTANT GUARD

It's difficult to scan all of these uncompacted, and with this much energy output.

JONAH

Listen. I hate to rush you but if you don't hurry, we might all be blasted to dust in here.

GUARD

You know we have to be thorough with the checks. Be patient.

Anna starts to look nervous. Jonah realizes this, glances at her signalling with his eyes to calm down. He then smiles.

Jonah scratches his pants. A DIM LIGHT turns on inside his pocket. It's a ANOTHER HOLO-PAD. Jonah manipulates it with his fingers, while his hand has it covered from any camera that he knows are watching from above.

Three of his robots suddenly EXPLODE.

GUARD

Shit! How did that happen?

JONAH

Told you so.

ANNA

It's the excess charges. We've somehow lost control when we put them on maximum because we wanted to finish up quickly. It's getting hot out there.

JONAH

Heat doesn't help the machines
either. Better get in fast, eh?

GUARD

Fine, you're good to go. Make sure
to take care of all of them.
Explosions of external machinaries
is punishable, and I remember your
face, Jonah Anders.

JONAH

Yeah, yeah sure. Thanks.

The inner gates opens. Jonah waves as he drives the rover through, with the swarms of the robots following them like bees. Anna's expression flat. She holds into the blanket tightly. But the robots already covers them from the cameras.

EXT. MAGELLAN CITY, STREET - DAY

The moment they're out of sight of the guards, Jonah and Anna compact their collector robots together, merging into two square shape, that fix themselves into the rover seats.

ANNA

That was exhilarating.

JONAH

That's what I do for a living.

ANNA

Does smugglers do that all the
time?

JONAH

Of course not. We got lots of other
tricks. Bribery is always the best.

They pass through the streets of Magellan where the old parts meet the new. A huge tower that was the former engine of the colony ship Magellan, now a museum, display holo-screens of "The First Landing of Magellan" and "The Proclamation for the Partition of the Planet Aten Ring Zone by Admiral Brant".

The rover pass through some areas that are clearly dilapidated. Some malfunctioning old robots are still being used, and some holo-screens are on-and-off. They then arrive at Anna's workshop. After making sure no one is watching, they drag Edward inside.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, ANNA'S WORKSHOP - LATER

Messy space. Full of repaired and unrepaired robots. Mechanical equipment fills the empty spaces left, except in the middle where a large table stands. Jonah and Anna put Edward on the table.

ANNA

Turn him face up. And keep a look at the life support. Tell me if he's having a fit or something while I'm trying to pull this armor off.

JONAH

I have to say that I'm not medic. Don't expect anything.

ANNA

I know, just keep watch on the body while I concentrate on the machine.

Anna takes her box of tools, opens it, pulls out a laser.

JONAH

You're going to cut the armor?

ANNA

Yes. I don't know how to open this thing. I don't know where the joints are. And I don't know this material, what's this thing made of. So I rules out normal cutting.

Jonah stay silent, but looks on keenly at the armor. Anna slices open the armor at the connection of arms to the torso. Knowing that the torso contains a computer, she does not touches it, opts instead to cuts the waist area. Its anchor points cut, the armor opens with a CLANK. Jonah and Anna looks toward each other, then starts dismantling the armor.

Anna opens the helmet. Jonah approaches closer to Edward's face. They both stare in silence.

ANNA

How do we revive him?

JONAH

His screen previously shown him healthy. Just exposure to Aten unregulated climate outside state borders.

ANNA

We can't call any doctor to-

Edward suddenly OPENS HIS EYES. Jonah and Anna freeze.

After a moment, Edward seems to realize that he is in an unfamiliar place. He starts to agitate, raises up his upper body, glances left and right.

EDWARD

Where am I, who are you people?

He looks down at his body and notices that his armor had been broken down.

EDWARD

What did you do with my suit?

JONAH

Sir, we mean you no harm.

ANNA

We're just common people. And we woke you up by dismantling your armor. It's foreign to us, so I apologize if it angers you.

JONAH

My name is Jonah Anders.

ANNA

I'm Anna Torres.

EDWARD

Wait, wait. Okay. I knocked out, and you both found me?

JONAH

I found you in plains. It seems that you've fainted out of exposure. But your armor is still powered, which keeps you alive and safe from the climate, temperature, and whatever hostiles out there.

ANNA

We took you in, to save you. I must say that what we did is unlawful, and we must keep you hidden.

Edward just stares listening to all those explanation. He seems confused for a moment until he realizes something.

EDWARD

Where am I?

ANNA

We're in my workshop. In Magellan City.

EDWARD

Magellan?

JONAH

Yes, Magellan. The city on the plains behind Scopus Mountains. Do your people know of Magellan?

EDWARD

My people..

JONAH

Where are you from? I found you under exposure to severe climate, which means you came from afar.

ANNA

Or being chased by something, someone?

A brief silence.

EDWARD

I'm.. both. From afar and being chased at.

JONAH

Oh that's not good.

EDWARD

Not good indeed. But thank you, for saving and sheltering me. I owe you both.

JONAH

Nah, anyone would do so in such situation.

ANNA

I... wouldn't be so sure about that.

JONAH

You seems better now. Do you feel fine, Sir?

EDWARD

Yes, I'm better. And it's Edward,
Edward Gerrano.

JONAH

Right Mr. Gerrano. I'll check for
food while you rest yeah?

EDWARD

Please, call me Edward.

JONAH

Edward then. I hope you like spicy
food.

EDWARD

At this point, anything.

Jonah leaves for the kitchen. Through all this time Anna has
been looking at the dismantled armor. She looks intrigued.

ANNA

Edward, if you don't mind, may I
check on your armor?

EDWARD

Oh yes, sure. Well it's more of a
suit than an armor though.

ANNA

By Magellan standard, this is
armor. Heavy. Anyway, you get some
rest. Just relax on the couch over
there.

EDWARD

Thanks. And oh, Anna, was it?

ANNA

Yeah.

EDWARD

Try not to activate the computer on
the torso, would you? It would
activate a beacon signal.

Beat.

ANNA

Okay, sure.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. HIMILCO CITY, WAR ROOM - NIGHT

Dark, full of busy PEOPLE IN PLAIN CRIMSON UNIFORMS. Majority of the light comes from monitors. Some show maps with moving dots, others show camera footages. In the center of the room, A GROUP OF FIVE GENERALS (40s-50s) in elaborate crimson uniforms sit on a semi-circular table. They face a large holoscreen. General GEORGE DELANO concentrates on the screen.

GEORGE

The Magellanian doesn't seem to notice our presence.

Across the left side, General LIN TONGBIN speaks.

TONGBIN

They've never been the cautious type after all. Living in such fertile area, protected by mountain ranges.

Another general, KIERAN TUSKEN, joins in.

KIERAN

And they never thought that their enemies might come up with more advanced machineries than themselves. Being prosperous *does* have its disadvantages.

General DRUSUS TYLER counters.

DRUSUS

I disagree. The Magellanian Authority will realize something amiss when some of their beacons went off.

KIERAN

But that could be anything. Off beacon in this planet is very common. With the rampaging trentors in the plains around Magellan, they'll think that it's just the beasts knocked off the beacons.

TONGBIN

It's their mating season. Or maybe the weather. It's notoriously windy, from Scopus.

DRUSUS

I'm still not convinced.

GEORGE

Either way, there're no movements detected by our drones of their military. Does this mean we move forward with our plan, Hiraga?

Sitting on the center of the semi-circular table, General HIRAGA ITOU stirs, like a newly awakened dragon.

HIRAGA

Yes, we move forward.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, GINNY'S PUB - NIGHT

A quiet, quaint pub. Jonah is in one of the back tables. With him is TOM BEAUFORT (24), his on-off lover. Tom looks tired, his brown hair messy, his eyes rather red. Jonah meanwhile is totally relaxed, slouches on the couch. Seeing Tom worn out face, Jonah moves to hug him. Tom sags on Jonah shoulder.

JONAH

Is it that bad?

TOM

Yeah it is. When you're tasked to track any suspicious movements along the borders, it is almost always bad. Well, not bad, just tiring. So tiring.

JONAH

Keeps you on edge all the time huh?

TOM

Every minute, no, every second of it. We simply can't miss anything.

JONAH

Which is why I'm very grateful to you. Thanks to your vigilance, I've managed a very successful business.

Tom glances at Jonah warily.

TOM

You know, I can't protect you and your shady business forever.

JONAH

Oh you're the cleverest person in the Authority Intelligence, or maybe the cleverest I've seen. You'll manage.

Jonah rubs his hand on Tom's head.

TOM

But for how long? You've been smuggling from Battutta and Aldrin and I've been meticulously, with much anxiety, covering your tracks. And your fellow smugglers' also.

JONAH

And you have my greatest thanks.

Jonah kisses Tom on the lips.

TOM

I don't know how long this is able to go on honestly. The Intelligence surveillance corps have detected suspicious activities on the eastern border.

JONAH

Care to explain? The eastern border is part of my route, as you know.

TOM

Well, it seems that some of our sensor beacons are off. Cause unknown.

JONAH

Could be the trentors or the garishiro.

TOM

Might be. But they usually avoid tech items. We designs our tech to be repulsive to the local fauna right?

JONAH

Hmmm, perhaps some cheap smugglers sabotaged them. For parts. I can check on it, if you want.

TOM

That'd be great. But what if my superiors ask where did I get the info from? My smuggler boyfriend?

JONAH

Tell them you have contacts within the smugglers network. They know that we exist, they just tolerate it for intel on foreign tech activities.

TOM

And then after that I'll be assigned to smuggling intel team. No way. That would compromise our relationship.

JONAH

Our relationship means that much to you?

Tom keeps silent. Jonah looks at him almost longingly.

Around them the pub starts to get a bit more crowded. Mostly regular patrons. Some are couples, some are groups of friends. Not the young type. Jonah seems out of place, but he seems enjoying the atmosphere.

TOM

There will probably skirmishes between our forces and the Himilcans.

JONAH

How do you know that?

TOM

Geospatial. Our satellites have picked up some movements along the border where the dead beacons are. It looked like movements of trentor herds, but on closer look it some of them were in humanoid shapes. And one was glimpsed in crimson.

JONAH

The banner color of Himilco City.

TOM

Yup. But we're not sure yet. So the special activities corps is planning for a scout mission. A day after tomorrow.

JONAH

Well, thank you for the heads up. I won't be doing any transactions in the east then.

TOM

Please, not just the east. Just stay in the city for the moment. It's been rather tense lately in the Authority. They suspects attacks on multiple fronts.

JONAH

(sighs)

All right, I'll stay put. For you.

TOM

Yeah for me. And for you too, stupid.

They kiss.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, ANNA'S WORKSHOP - SAME

Anna is in her room. She tinkers with an arm of Edward's armor. Full of concentration. Meanwhile she does not see that the torso computer is still active.

EXT. MAGELLAN CITY, SIDE STREET - LATER

Dark and dingy, with cyberpunk-ish neon lights. Jonah is with his smuggler friends MARI (20s) and ANGELA (20s). They smoke while swiping their cells. Angel's cells BEEPS.

ANGELA

Jonah, it's transferred.

JONAH

Thanks. Nice doing business with you.

MARI

Don't forget that it is I who has contact in Aldrin and Battutta. My share should be more considerable.

JONAH

Don't worry you two. I'll make sure we're all well compensated. Those client of yours, Angel, are they really Authority bosses?

ANGELA

Yes they are. Surprising isn't it. They banned foreign tech into the city and the people, but themselves hungry for them.

MARI

Jonah and I went through a lot of trouble for those stuffs. Some of them are positively weapons.

JONAH

I myself don't care, as long as it is profitable, and not being used toward the people of Magellan.

CHIKA

Agreed.

JONAH

In any case, things will be a bit more difficult in the near future. The SAC will patrol the eastern border. Contact with our fellow smugglers from Battutta will have to stop. A while at least.

MARI

Then our expansion into Dagama will also have to be put on hold.

ANGELA

Well, let us hope things will calm down in the future.

MARI

They rarely does.

They puff their last smokes, drop them to the ground then put them out by their shoes.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICE HQ - DAY

A grey and glass building. The orange sky light reflects on the glass windows as holo-screens displays throughout the cavernous central operation hall. HARPO ROGERS (40s), Chief Security Officer of Magellan sits on chair, looking at multiple screens that shows everything from city streets to Authority figures in their offices and private rooms.

AN OPERATOR of one of the holo-screens SPEAKS.

OPERATOR

Commander Rogers, I detected a foreign, static pulse, signal from a location in City East.

Harpo still focuses on his holo-screens.

HARPO

And this signal is foreign?

OPERATOR

Yes sir.

Harpo swipes some control from the holo on his mechanical chair. The operator's screen shows up wide in front of him. It shows hover view of Anna's Workshop.

OPERATOR

It's seems to emanate from a heavy metal, in shape of an armor, in the center of upper right room.

The screen zooms in.

HARPO

Then we got problem.

He swipes and touches a holo-botton on his chair.

HARPO

Get me the Minister of Defense.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, MAGELLAN AUTHORITY HQ - LATER

A meeting in a closed, dark room. Sitting around a smooth table are Harpo, CASIMIR DRAGO (40s), the Minister of Defense of Magellan, and Tom his deputy.

Harpo slides the table section in front of him and a holo-screen lights on, showing a hover-view of Edward's armor in red inside Anna's Workshop.

Tom's face stiffens, immediately recognized the place, but his expression betrays nothing.

HARPO

Foreign tech, a suit or an armor.
It must be retrieved.

CASIMIR

My main concern is how this thing was brought into the city. This signal a breach.

TOM

Our focus has been with the Himilcans lately. Perhaps this was a lapse in border guards?

CASIMIR

That doesn't excuse you, Harpo, for not noticing a foreign suit gone undetected by gate sensors.

HARPO

I'll admit that yes. But this indicates that someone inside Magellan is smuggling illegal tech.

CASIMIR

Oh that's old news. Even Authority figures amongst ourselves are sometimes looks out for foreign items. But a suit... that's new.

TOM

Does it mean that there's someone foreign wearing that suit coming into the city?

HARPO

Might be. That's why I called this meeting. To storm the place I need both your approval.

CASIMIR

You got it. Storm the place. Arrest anyone whose identity is not registered. Agreed Tom?

Beat.

TOM

Agreed.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, ANNA'S WORKSHOP - LATER

Anna still tinkers with the weapon on the armor's arm.

ANNA

Hey Edward!

Edward comes in from the main room.

EDWARD

Yes?

He sees what Anna is doing.

EDWARD

Oh, you be careful with that. Don't want to wreck your whole room right?

ANNA

It has that capability? I thought this is just a mere laser gun.

EDWARD

It is a laser gun, but adjustable to be anything from mere laser to blast of electric burst beam.

Anna stares at the arm gun with awe. But immediately switches to Edward.

ANNA

You're feeling better now?

EDWARD

Yes thank you. Your food was good.

ANNA

Might I ask you something?

EDWARD

Sure.

ANNA

Where do you came from? I mean before we found you.

EDWARD

Oh that.

(beat)

(MORE)

I came from..

(beat)

Enterprise City. On the slopes of
Zhang Mountains.

ANNA

Enterprise City? Zhang Mountains?

EDWARD

You wouldn't know that, would you?
Such information is rare in this
city of yours.

ANNA

Yeah we're not really taught and
informed about the other
settlements. But what brought you
to the Magellan Plains?

EDWARD

I escaped... from Enterprise.

ANNA

Might I ask why?

Edward hesitates.

EDWARD

I... was forced to.

ANNA

Mind telling me about it?

Edward nods.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. ENTERPRISE CITY, UNDERGROUND LEVEL - NIGHT

RUNNING STEPS echo on dark corridor. Breathless GASPS from a
running man. Shifting shadows among flickers of lights.

EDWARD (V.O.)

I was a commander of an
Enterprisian special troops squad.

BOOM!! A laser beam destroyed parts of a corridor wall. But
Edward misses it. He continues to run, through corridors and
passes a glass window with multitudes of coffin-like pods
behind it.

EDWARD (V.O.)
But I had a disagreement. I
disobeyed a command.

He turns to another corridor. This one is pitch black. But Edward runs through it anyway.

EDWARD (V.O.)
So the Enterprisian military chased
me out.

Red dots suddenly appear amidst the darkness. Flashes of lasers being shot fill the darkness with intermittent lights: the City's MECHANIZED TROOPERS, their dark armors reflected by the lasers' light.

EDWARD (V.O.)
Or rather, I fought my way out. If
I stayed I'd be put to death.

Edward avoids their lasers expertly, then disables them by quick smashes from his hands and arms.

He continues to run until the corridor ends by a gaping hole, opens to the inside of a massive cylindrical structure. Above, an orange sky can be seen. Edward looks up.

From behind, heavy steps can be heard closing in. The troopers has him cornered. Kira then shows up, aims her weapon at Edward.

KIRA
Edward stop right there! There is
nowhere else to go. Just surrender.

EDWARD
There are places to go. Anywhere
but here. Come with Kira.

KIRA
You won't survive out there. You
know that.

EDWARD
What do you know of the world
outside?

KIRA
I know enough to conclude that this
is the best place for us.

EDWARD
That's because you've never seen
it! This place is rotten and cruel.
(MORE)

Don't you realize? They didn't even allow us to be together, simply because we're on military.

KIRA

This isn't about us. You care too much Ed, for things so trivial. There are greater purpose here.

EDWARD

And that purpose for you is more important than our relationship?

Kira keeps her silence.

Edward set his sight on the walls. His blue eyes glows into full yellow. Then he jumps powerfully, almost flying, toward the opposite wall. He smashes but by that crash he gains physical momentum to fly higher.

KIRA

Troopers, shoot him!

Edward skillfully flies to avoid the beams. So far he is good, until one hits his neck. The wound does not do anything to his armor. He looks down and sees Kira besides the Chief Trooper. She aims her arm gun at Edward.

EDWARD

Kira! Leave with me!

But Kira keeps aiming her arm gun at him. Face full of dissappointment, Edward glances toward the open sky. Many laser hit his armor, but leaves no dent. Edward moves his body to face the wall. Then he raise his arm gun, put it to max through control in his face view. Then shot.

BOOM!! The laser-electric explosion propels Edward pass the wide gaping hole of the structure. He lands on the roof of the facility. Not spending a moment, he runs.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, ANNA'S WORKSHOP - LATER

Anna listens attentively.

ANNA

What happen afterwards?

BOOM!!!

The front door of the workshop busts. Anna and Edward spring up. MAGELLANIAN TROOPERS, faceless in their armors, burst in, weapons drawn, filling the workshop rooms to the full. Anna and Edward just stand by, too shocked to react. TWO TROOPERS corner them.

TROOPER I

Stay put! You're both under arrest!

The SECOND TROOPER checks their IDs on his helmet screen.

TROOPER II

(point his gun at Edward)

You're not a registered citizen.

(yelling to the others)

I got the foreigner!

The troopers ransacks the workshop. Three of them take Edward armor out toward a vehicle outside. The rest are looking for other foreign objects. But they find nothing.

Suddenly from outside another VOICE called. It's Jonah.

JONAH

Hey, wait! What's happening here?

The two troopers cornering Anna and Edward got distracted. Edward seizes this moment to react. His eyes turns yellow. He grabs the trooper's gun, brakes it in just a clench. The FIRST TROOPER aims his gun at Edward and shoot. The beam hits Edward's arm. It leaves a burn marks... that heals within seconds. Edward moves as quick as wind, smacks the armored trooper unconscious.

The rest of the squad come into the room. They shoot Edward with multiple beams, which have no effect. Anna screams throughout. The room seems exploding into lightning bits.

Eventually ONE OF THE TROOPERS shot a tranquilizer bullet. It hits Edward on the neck, and paralyzes him.

From outside TWO TROOPERS bring Jonah inside.

TROOPER III

Anders, Citizen 1069, you're also under arrest on suspicion for complicity in this crime scene.

The Magellanian Troopers haul them all up into their transport.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, DETENTION CENTER, REGULAR CELL - DAY

Jonah and Anna share the same cell. It's bare and industrial. A high-tech security door is at the end of their corridor. With other cells empty, it looks more like mortuary.

ANNA

Where do you think they keep Edward?

JONAH

Dunno. Torture chamber perhaps.

ANNA

Yeah. He's a foreigner. But I can't imagine what would they do to him. And also, I'm worried about us.

JONAH

Rumors said that a found foreigner is either sentenced for death, or being experimented.

ANNA

Experiment for what? There's no such thing as a human experiment. Rumors are just rumors.

JONAH

There is. *My* rumors is always correct.

ANNA

But what about us Jonah. Us. Where would we go?

JONAH

I'm not too worried about that.

ANNA

You should. Nobody survives outside the borders.

JONAH

No, you can survive outside the borders.

ANNA

There it is. Another Jonah's rumor.

JONAH

It's true though. There're things out there that live and thrive.

ANNA

You mean mutant animals and plants. Monsters.

JONAH

I mean people.

ANNA

And you get this from where? Your smuggler contacts?

JONAH

Amongst them yeah. Also from various sources.

Tom opens the security doors with his voice authority then walks down the corridor toward their cell. He stops in front of them.

TOM

I warned you didn't I. Stop doing these reckless things.

JONAH

Did you tell on us Tom?

Brief silence.

TOM

Article VI, Clause II, of the Magellan Code clearly forbid contact with foreign matter, and Clause III prohibit contacts with outsider

JONAH

Well that answers the question.

TOM

You keep such a big secret from me! And I found out from the Minister of Defense. What am I supposed to do than to keep silent. Yes I didn't tell on you. I simply can't do anything in my position.

JONAH

You could've protected us. Divert them or something. You have the authority.

TOM

That will jeopardise my position in the Authority Jon. The one I worked so hard for.

A silence.

ANNA

I understand why you keep silent Tom, but what will happen to Edward?

TOM

Edward?

JONAH

The foreigner.

TOM

I don't know. He's being kept underground, which I don't have access to. At least for now.

JONAH

Could you please let us know about him. Before they throw me and Anna out. At least do that for us.

TOM

Yeah. Sure.

Beat.

TOM

You're more interested in his fate than ours huh Jon. Why is that?

JONAH

Because of compassion, Tom. I hope you understand that.

TOM

And you care about him more than about us?

JONAH

That's not... well I do care about us.

TOM

No you don't. If you do, you won't be here in first place.

Tom walks away and left.

ANNA

Quite the romance, you two.

JONAH

Yeah, we're sweet like that.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, DETENTION CENTER, HALLWAY - SAME

Tom pulls up his cell.

TOM

Hey, get me Rogers.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, DETENTION CENTER, SPECIAL CELL - NIGHT

Another high-tech security cells, but in this part Magellanian troopers stand guard and the cells looks more sterile than the ones upstairs. Edward is in one of these cells. The other cells are empty. In front of Edward's cell sit Ministers JAIME CALDERON (40s) and LIU CHENG (40s). Behind them stand Harpo and Casimir.

JAIME

You Enterprisian are always something aren't you? Once it was robot wars. And then chemical plague. Now you're doing supersoldiers.

CHENG

Thankfully you're still vulnerable to tranquillizing agents. We put note on that for sure.

EDWARD

What do you want from me?

CHENG

Information. Regarding technological practices and inside knowledge of Enterprise City.

JAIME

We also want to examine your body. You're what we called an "augmented".

EDWARD

And you want this why?

Cheng just shrugs. Jaime smirks.

CHENG

We want to be the best, the strongest, in the whole of The Ring Zone.

EDWARD

I'm your guinea pig then?

JAIME

Yes you are. Such archaic phrase, "guinea pig". I wonder how the ancients come up with that.

CHENG

Either way, you'll be transferred to my facilities, to check on your connectivities to your armor, then you move on to Calderon's.

Edward slams his cell glass.

EDWARD

Just try, Ministers. I will escape with my abilities.

JAIME

Oh, we very much would like to see you try.

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, DETENTION CENTER, REGULAR CELL - DAY

Tom comes back to visit Jonah and Anna. Alongside him are Magellanian Troops, ready to escort them.

TOM

We'll go to your and Anna's places, for you both to get whatever basic stuffs you need. After that we'll escort you to the borders.

JONAH

Why do they sent you for this task?

TOM

Because they know all about us Jonah. They know of our relationship, they know of your side smuggling.

(glances at Anna)

They even know how much you crave for knowledge, Anna, and that you think Magellan's society is stagnant and doom to fail.

JONAH

They penetrates us all.

TOM

They are. And they want your final sight of your home to be as painful as it can be. Through me for Jonah, and for Anna, through letting you clean up your workshop that they know you love so much.

ANNA

Yeah well, it's not like we have a choice. Get on with it then.

They all leave the detention center escorted.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, ANNA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Tom, Jonah and Anna packs few tools that might come in handy. Laser cutter, perpetual flashlight, resistant knives, and laser guns with their batteries packed into bags.

ANNA

Can't believe I'll leave this place. This has been my home for forever.

JONAH

I know how you feel.

ANNA

No you don't Jonah. Nobody knows how other people feels, unless they live inside their bodies and goes through the lives they goes through.

Jonah has nothing to say to that.

ANNA

My home, my work, my passion, my feeling of safety. Gone within hours.

JONAH

Hey, why don't you look at it as an adventure. We'll discover new things, visits new cities and-

ANNA

I'm not like you Jonah. You crave adventure. I know deep down you're actually glad that we're exiled. It's just another thrill for you. But I, I lose, I lose everthing.

JONAH

But look outside Anna. You heard what Tom said. Even the Authority knows you crave for more knowledge. Isn't that why you tinkers with Edward's armor in the first place?

ANNA

Yeah, but-

JONAH

You think you can get that knowledge here. Look outside. Everything is rundown. And every development is seemingly geared up for the military, not simply for science. You can get what you crave for by venturing out of Magellan.

ANNA

But the risk-

JONAH

I know you don't really care about risks. It's leaving this place you're feeling heavy about. Trust me, we will get so many new things out there that you'll forget this place.

Anna is out of words, and just continues packs up her things.

INT. MAGELLAN CITY, JONAH'S APARTMENT - LATER

Books sprawl on the floor. Messy bed. Otherwise the room is bare, like nobody ever really lives in it. Jonah packs whatever cloths he has, while Tom looks around.

TOM

Honestly, I never really like this place of yours.

JONAH

Me too.

TOM

Your excitement is actually clear on your face you know.

A silence drops on them.

JONAH

Look, no matter how I hate this place, I still love you.

TOM

Is that the truth, or just the emotion?

JONAH

The truth.

Another silence.

TOM

I can't say that I believe that anymore, but I will still help you. I got info on your foreigner. He's being moved, from detention to Minister Liu's facility, and then to Calderon's.

JONAH

Wait, you mean they're gonna experiment on him.

TOM

Of course. He's valuable asset, when you think it through.

JONAH

We've got to stop them!

TOM

What? Why? How? Jonah, why are you being like this?

JONAH

Like what?

TOM

Prioritizing this Edward of yours.

JONAH

I, I, I don't know Tom... I just don't. And do you think human experiment is right? Gosh you become a true Authority figure now.

TOM

I'm not like that. At all. That's why I'm telling you all of this.

JONAH

Then can you help me free him?

Tom thinks for a while.

TOM

I might, but I need help.

JONAH

Let me handle that. Just tell me your plan.

EXT. MAGELLAN CITY, CITY STREET - DAY

A convoy of two security cars and one high-security truck traverse through high lanes of Magellan City. Edward is inside the truck.

It's going to be a chase fight.

Jonah, Anna, and Angela rides in a black vehicle.

JONAH
 (to his cell on his arm)
 Tom, thanks for the exact info.

TOM (O.S.)
 You're totally nuts.

Jonah gets out of the vehicle while it's still moving toward the convoy. On his other hand is THE ARM OF EDWARD'S ARMOR.

JONAH
 Anna, tell me if I missed or use the wrong command.

ANNA
 I still agree with Tom, you're crazy. But I want to help you still. For Edward.

JONAH
 Yeah, for Edward.

They get closer to the convoy. The escorting security people start firing lasers, but none hit. Jonah puts on EDWARD'S ARMOR HELMET. He points the armored arm at the truck. A screen lights up on the visage. With the moves of his eyes, Edward choose the "shoot" holo-button, and then blinks.

The armor laser gun fired.

BOOM!! And parts of the truck's side is just gone. Angela who is driving pulls up closer to the truck so fast that the escorting security can barely reacts. Jonah YELLS.

JONAH
 Edward! Come! Jump!

Edward jumps into the vehicle.

ANNA
 Oh double trouble starts now.

JONAH
 Angela, we have to get out of the city.

TOM
 Okay. I hope Tom is truly with us. Otherwise we're screwed.

ANNA
 So Edward, are you okay? What did they do to you?

EDWARD

I'm okay. They did nothing during the detention but who knows what they'll do to me. That Calderon guy of yours creeps me out.

EXT. MAGELLAN CITY, WESTERN GATE - LATER

Angela pulls up right in front of the gate. Tom is there, alongside a few Magellanian guards. They regard them with suspicion. But they get out nonetheless.

TOM

Don't worry, these guards are fully under me. They won't betray us.

JONAH

Thank you Tom, for doing this.

TOM

No worries. I figured that you and Anna are going to be banished anyway, so why not include that Edward instead.

ANNA

But if you get caught doing this-

TOM

Nah, I said no worries. The punishment for me won't be harsh. I'm a high official. Just think of this as my parting gift for you.

ANNA

Thank you.

TOM

Still, I don't get why you're so attached to this guy, with whom you've just met a few days ago.

ANNA

Yeah, I don't get it either. But he's nice, and we can't bear thinking that he'd be tortured or experimented.

TOM

Let me tell you something. A guy with that kind of capability, might just had been experimented.

(MORE)

It's what the Authority call the augmented.

ANNA

So we do have such experimentation here in Magellan.

TOM

No, but the Authority wants to. Hence the interest in Edward.

ANNA

Wow. Well regardless, I think me and Jonah need him out there, for protection. I feel that he's genuinely care for us, and he's got the ability to protect us.

Jonah comes up to them.

JONAH

Tom, thank you, I can't imagine how did you managed all this. Smuggling out Edward's armor, locating the prisoner, and getting us out from here.

TOM

I said no worries. I got my resources, as you well know.

JONAH

You should be a smuggler.

TOM

I should aren't I. If I run out job. Which is not gonna happen. Anyway, it's time for you three to go.

Tom grabs something from his pocket, and gives it to Jonah.

JONAH

What's this?

TOM

It's long-distance cell, specifically manufactured for intelligence officers who work in faraway field. It's akin to sattelite cell, but with higher frequencies and encryption.

(MORE)

With this, we can keep contact,
wherever you are, even though it's
going to be difficult finding the
signal.

JONAH

Thanks.

ANNA

Yeah, I would like to know what
development is unfolding here in
Magellan while we were away. Not
that there is a chance for us to
get back anyway.

Awkward smiles from the three of them.

TOM

You should get going. I don't know
how long a can manage this gate
open.

JONAH

All right. Well, thank you, Tom,
for everything.

TOM

Likewise.

An awkward hug.

ANNA

Come Edward, time to go.

EDWARD

Ready when you both are.

They get through the gate, to the new world outside.

EXT. MAGELLAN CITY, WESTERN GATE - SAME

After Edward, Jonah and Anna went through the gate and the
gate is closed, Tom pulls up his cell.

TOM

Minister Drago, it's done. The
tracker is in place and active.

CASIMIR (O.S.)

Good. Let us hope that this game
will play to our advantage. I
commend you for this brilliant idea
Beaufort.

TOM
Thank you sir.

CASIMIR (O.S.)
Keep track on them. Always.

TOM
Yes sir.

Tom turns off his phone, his expression disappointed.

EXT. MAGELLAN TERRITORIES, BORDER AREA - LATER

Grassy of yellow color, in beautiful contrasts with the orange sky. Among the high grass hidden a HIMILCAN SPY. He is controlling various military drones via a holo-device on his arm.

Drones fly throughout the area. At certain points they come down and by robotic arms put down tiny devices of what looks like grenades.

EXT. MAGELLAN PLAINS - DAY

Edward, Anna and Jonah walks through the plains on foot. Their backpacks hangs behind them. Edward looks at the orange sky, his expression looks rather purposeful.

JONAH
So, where do we go from here?

EDWARD
I'd say we cross the Magellanian border ASAP. Those troops might come chasing after us.

ANNA
Agreed.

They cross the boundaries between Magellan territories and the outside world.

JONAH
Whoa, that was exhilarating.

ANNA
Indeed.

EDWARD
Why is that?

ANNA

We've never been outside Magellan territory before. It is forbidden.

EDWARD

And that makes you feel... good?

JONAH

Yeah, it actually does.

ANNA

I'm more cautious than feeling good.

A moment later, something amidst the high yellow grass stirs.

ANNA

What was that?

A REPTILIAN HISSING VOICE can be heard. Edward dons his armor.

EDWARD

Get ready. It sounds like a garishiro.

ANNA

A what?

Before Edward can answer, a massive combination of reptile and bull with white scales and silver horn breaks through the grass. It charges right toward them. Edward aim his arm gun, and shot of electric charge hit the garishiro, renders it unconscious.

JONAH

What was that again?

EDWARD

Garishiro. We used them in the gladiator in Enterprise for sport and practice.

ANNA

What a dangerous sport.

EDWARD

Oh it's among the easiest of Enterprisian brutal sport.

Anna opens up a holo-screen from her cell.

ANNA

So where do we go from here.

JONAH

I don't know. Anywhere would be fine. I've never been to outside world before.

EDWARD

Right. I think it would be best if we head to Lincshoten City. That's I think the safest settlements around here. We obviously can't stay too long outside of settlements. The weather won't permit it.

ANNA

I agree with that proposition.

JONAH

Right then, let's go. Journey begins.

They left the unconcious garishiro behind, it white scales shines in reflection of the orange sky.

END OF ACT V

TAG

EXT. ENTERPRISE CITY, SUPERSOLDIER GARRISON - DAY

It is raining hard. TWO SQUADS of supersoldiers stand ready, indifferent to the rain. Loren Erikson stands on a podium.

LOREN

Your former compatriot had betrayed you. The former commander Gerrano had betrayed us all. Now, it is your duty, toward this city, our empire, and toward your comradeship, to bring him back into our fold.

He paused, looks over all of them, face full of malicious intent.

LOREN

I command you to succeed in this mission. Glory to Enterprise!

ALL SUPERSOLDIERS

Glory to Enterprise!

Loren smiles wickedly. Among the soldiers, Kira stands silently, her face betrays no emotion.

END OF PILOT