

BLACK VEIL: EPISODE 1X4, "UNITY"

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Final Draft

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TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. SHINE TOWN - MORNING

Everything is in SLOW MOTION. CLOSE UP on NOLA. The BLUE filaments in her skin indicated that she is PORTING, a.k.a, online, but she's distracted by real life.

Nola sits on her knees, hands limp at her sides. She's looking up into a gorgeous BLAZING ORANGE SKY. A strong WIND blows all around her. Her lips part. She takes a breath. Is she basking in the warm sun?

MIWA (V.O.)

This will be the last time I speak with you. Everything is about to change. Life is about to become a lot harder.

The orange color of the sky GLISTENS in Nola's soft EYES. SNOWFLAKES being to fall. There's beauty and peace surrounding her.

MIWA (V.O.) (cont'd)

You need to be strong for what comes next. You're going to have to make choices that will haunt you.

As the CAMERA PULLS BACK from Nola a TEAR falls from her eye. We see that the gentle snow is ASH, the beautiful orange sky is the devastating FIRE from the ROCKET, and the wind is the FALLOUT.

MIWA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Some people will need to be sacrificed.

Nola is sitting in the middle of the street. Sheer panic and chaos twists all around her. She looks so small and helpless amid the RUBBLE of destruction. INJURED CITIZENS lay in the street DEAD, or CRAWLING.

MIWA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Others will need to be saved.

Compliance Control Officers run past Nola toward the partially COLLAPSED Hydroponics Bay. She barely notices. This isn't happening. This can't be happening.

MIWA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
(softly, mothering)  
Listen closely now. I'm uploading  
evidence to your port. It will clear  
you of all crimes. Use it, Nola.

Nola shakes her head, and drops her face into her hands.  
She's CRYING. This is too much to bear.

MIWA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
This city needs you. Kael needs you.  
(beat)  
They're coming for you.

FOUR COMPLIANCE CONTROL OFFICERS race toward Nola from all  
directions. She lifts her face up to the ruin surrounding  
her once more. She either doesn't see the Officers, or  
doesn't care.

MIWA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
Fight, Nola. Get up and fight.

CLOSE UP. Nola begins to RISE to her feet.

MIWA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
Save yourself, Nola. You can do  
this. You MUST do this.

Nola's blue filaments go dark, and the WORLD around her  
comes rushing back in loudly at NORMAL SPEED. SCREAMS, and  
YELLING.

CC OFFICER  
On your feet!

We see that Nola was not standing on her own volition, but  
the two Compliance Control Officer's were pulling her up.

CC OFFICER 2  
Non-compliant number 1912, you are  
under arrest for breaching a secure  
database.

Utterly overwhelmed with everything, Nola doesn't resist the  
arrest. In fact, it doesn't even look like she knows what's  
going on. She's in a daze.

WHITE FLASH

INT. WHITE ROOM - MONTAGE

A room void of windows, doors, or even seams. There is no light source, but there is plenty of LIGHT. This is a sensory deprived, white shell that is designed for one thing: to break a person.

- Nola is in a catatonic state laying flat on the floor. Her eyes stare into the ceiling. Tears slide down her face one after the other like a steady rain. She's emotionally crippled.

- Sat in the middle of the room, Nola hugs her knees to her chest. She rocks herself. The tears still fall, but FEAR has taken over pain.

- PANIC has taken hold. Nola searches the smooth walls of the room for a way out. She pounds the surface, but there's NO SOUND. She looks up and yells these words, "IS ANYBODY THERE!? CAN ANYBODY HEAR ME?!", but we only see her mouth move.

- ANGER grips Nola. How long has she been trapped here? It's unknown, but it feels like an eternity. A blush of RED tinges her skin. She stands in the middle of the room and SCREAMS in rage at the ceiling.

- Having run the gamut of the emotional spectrum, Nola is back on the floor, laying there. She's exhausted, and drained of emotion. It's clear what she must do. Her mouth moves with the words, "I GIVE UP. DO YOU HEAR ME?". She tries again only this time...

END MONTAGE

NOLA

Is anybody-

She's shocked to hear her own voice. Quickly, she sits up and continues.

NOLA (cont'd)

(confident)

I wish to submit to a nano-scan. Do you hear me? I have information I need to give you. I can help.

She frowns and rubs the back of her neck as if something is sticking her sharply. Then it comes -- a wave of nausea so overpowering that she DOUBLES OVER in PAIN.

Nola's physical form begins to pixel molecule-by-molecule, until it's nothing but BINARY CODE being torn apart.

She SCREAMS, but once again NOTHING COMES OUT.

WHITE FLASH

INT. EXTRACTION ROOM A

Another sterile, white room. But this one is REAL. Nola is strapped to a surgical chair. The blue filaments in her skin indicate that she has been PORTING all this time. Here, her SCREAM IS REAL.

Behind Nola, TECHNICIAN 1 works the COMPUTER. There is a large cable connected to the back of Nola's neck where her port exchange access is located.

Compliance Control Officer 2 watches with a disturbed look as Nola twitches and convulses.

CC OFFICER 2  
Is that normal?

Technician 1 glances back. He's not worried.

TECHNICIAN 1  
Indeed. Deep root scans are most unpleasant. That's why we wait for them to submit willingly. It makes collecting data easier.

CC OFFICER 2  
How long will this take?

TECHNICIAN 1  
Half hour, at least. Depends on how compliant the non-complaint is.

He laughs at his own joke. The CC Officer is annoyed. He's uncomfortable watching this.

CC OFFICER 2  
Will she last that long?

TECHNICIAN 1  
Ehn.

That doesn't sound confident. He taps at the computer.

TECHNICIAN 1 (cont'd)  
We may have to pause and replenish her fluids. But she should be... Oh, dear..

A RED POP-UP WINDOW appears on his computer screen. It reads, "HIGH PRIORITY: BoT DATA EVENT".

TECHNICIAN 1 (cont'd)  
Get your supervisor. Tell him we  
have a high priority data event.  
Alert the Board of Trustees at once.

CC OFFICER 2  
Should I get the Director?

TECHNICIAN 1  
(snaps)  
No! Only the BoT. Do it now!

The Compliance Control Officer hurries out. Technician 1 reads a LINE OF CODE, and then glances back at Nola, sympathetic.

TECHNICIAN 1 (cont'd)  
Poor girl. You don't belong in this  
chair at all, do you?

MAIN TITLES: BLACK VEIL

END TEASER

ACT ONEEXT. AIR ISLES - BLOOD RAVEN - DAY

Sails are quickly being lowered on the ship. The aft rocket is cut. The Blood Raven slows just outside a CLUSTER of dead rocks. The path ahead is a maze that looks like a stationary asteroid field. It is debris from Earth's blowout known as THE SHOALS. In the distance is the shape of a large air isle, glistening like a jewel in the sun -- EDEN.

EXT. STERNCASTLE DECK -HELM

WADE operates the WHEEL, while ABILENE observes Eden through a SPYGLASS. All Townsfolk are dressed in their usual Steampunk "cowboy" clothing, and have their personal weapons back.

ABILENE  
Can't see much from here.

WADE  
These rocks will give us cover, at least.

Wade pulls one of the LARGE LEVERS on the Control Panel. There's an audible GROWL of FIRE, and the ship STOPS.

Abilene lowers the spyglass and looks at him with a grin.

ABILENE  
Getting the hang of this, are you?

WADE  
Doc's a good teacher, but it's like steering a barn.  
(grin)  
It's kinda fun.  
(smile fades)  
You sure about this?

He looks over at the STAIRS as BEAR escorts QUINT up with his twelve chambered CROSSBOW pushing at the man's back.

ABILENE  
'Bout to find out.

She comes around the wheel to meet them. Immediately, Quint smirks. He's been expecting this moment. He looks out at the horizon, then back at Abilene.

QUINT

We're at full stop with Eden on the horizon. That makes you not entirely stupid.

Abilene flashes the MESSAGE he gave her from the homing pigeon.

ABILENE

Has the bounty reached this far?

QUINT

Can't say. We may be ahead of the flock, or behind it. The call went out across the Prides and Isles alike, lass. We've no ground to run to.

WADE

You suggesting we surrender?

His tone is more of a threat than a question.

ABILENE

(at Bear)

He ain't gonna help. This was a mistake. Take him back to the brig.

Bear starts, then stops as Quint RESISTS.

QUINT

Wait! Hear me out...

At Abilene's nod, Bear let's go of Quint.

QUINT (cont'd)

A ship this recognizable can't go to ground, but a smaller boat can.

Abilene follows his gaze down to the MAIN DECK where two LONGBOATS are stored.

QUINT (cont'd)

Leave the Blood Raven under the cover of the shoals, and take one of the longboats in.

Abilene briefly closes her eyes. She hates to admit it, but he's right. When she looks at him again there's suspicion.

ABILENE

You ordered your Chief Mechanic, Riley, to help us. Why?



QUINT

The bounty is for all of us. We live together, or we die together. Besides, I'm a sucker for a pretty lass, and a hopeless situation.

Abilene rolls her eyes at that.

ABILENE

You were ready to kill me the other day, now you're flirting with me?

QUINT

No, I was foolishly trying to save you the other day. Now I see that you don't need saving. Thus, I've moved on to other tactics.

Abilene wags her head, but she's not entirely repulsed. Effie joins them.

EFFIE

Kael's worse. Are we making port, or ain't we?

With a sigh, Abilene looks down at the longboats. She REALLY hates this. She nods.

ABILENE

Saddle-up a longboat. Bear, you'll take Squirrel and Riley to the scrap yard and get what we need for repairs.

QUINT

And fuel.

ABILENE

Yeah, that. Effie and I will get the meds.

EFFIE

Uh, good plan, but we need to take Kael with us.

Abilene gives her a "no way" look. That's not a great idea, lugging him around.

EFFIE (cont'd)

In his condition he can't wait for us to bring the antibiotics to him. He needs medical attention now.

(MORE)

EFFIE (cont'd)  
I know somebody who can be discreet  
about helping us.

That receives CURIOUS EXPRESSIONS from Quint, Wade, and Bear. Just how would a Plain's Drifter know anyone around here.

Abilene merely GROWLS her frustration.

ABILENE  
Fine. Doc, Quint, and I will take  
Kael into town.

Effie looks relieved. Quint looks confused.

QUINT  
You're trusting me?

ABILENE  
(tiny smirk)  
No. I'm lookin' for an opportunity  
to shoot you. Wade, keep the ship  
hidden, and don't go runnin' off  
without us.

WADE  
(playful)  
Aye, aye, Captain.

ABILENE  
Shut up, or I'll shoot you too.

Wade chuckles to himself. The group splits in different directions to make the plan happen.

EXT. AIR ISLES - HAPPY JACK - DAY

Foul weather pounds the metal and wood hull. The skies are dark with clouds, and the wind is blowing hard.

The Happy Jack is docked along side a small AIR ISLE out in the middle of nowhere. This Air Isle is a PIGEON POST, it's main job is to send and receive messages from across the isles. There is a huge LIGHTHOUSE with a SIGNALING MIRROR housed therein.

This is our first look at the airship HAPPY JACK, and it is terrifying. The HULL is completely black and boasts a WHITE LAUGHING SKULL. The design of the ship accentuates her speed. Along the BOW STRIP are PINNED SKELETONS of slain foes.

Unlike the Blood Raven, this airship does not have many open decks on top. The Happy Jack is more like a submarine with decking cut into sides of the ship to protect against boarding parties. This ship, like many airships, are made of old war parts from planes, tanks, boats, and subs.

Sails adorn the Happy Jack on all sides, top and bottom. Adjustable boosters and thrusters line the hull. This airship was built to fight.

INT. HAPPY JACK - BRIDGE

This is a large room on the uppermost deck of the ship. It has a 360 degree view of the airspace around the ship. There is still a WHEEL and primitive LEVERS to control the ship's engines and sails.

At the center of the room is a large rolodex-style CHART TABLE with a map on display. Navigation instruments lay around.

HAPPY JACK, ANGEL, BLOXHAM, BIG IRISH, and MAGNUS stand around the chart table, engaged in conversation.

BLOXHAM

We did quite a bit of damage to the Blood Raven. They were down to one aft thruster when they left.

ANGEL

They'll be at half speed. Easy to catch.

HAPPY JACK

Aye. She'll be needin' repairs and fuel... here.

INSERT - MAP

Happy Jack's hairy knuckles point out an air isle called THE PIT. A small token ship is in the area, flagged as the SKOLL, which is Captain Thorn's airship.

BACK TO SHOT

HAPPY JACK (cont'd)

The Pit. It's the closest ship yard capable of handling that kind of damage. Captain Thorn should be closing in on it now.

Bloxham struggles to keep his emotions under control.

BLOXHAM

And why aren't we? We've been tied  
to this pigeon post for days.

Angel, shifts in anticipation. Slowly, Happy Jack casts his glare in Bloxham's direction. It's a sharp warning, which Bloxham heeds.

HAPPY JACK

Angel, where's the Black Dagger now?

ANGEL

Conducting a search pattern, here.

INSERT - MAP

Angel picks up a TOKEN ship flagged as the Black Dagger and sets it among a group of Isles, one being EDEN.

BACK TO SHOT

HAPPY JACK

Get me when a post comes in.

He leaves. Bloxham SCOWLS over the map. Angel observes. Mangus and Big Irish watch her.

ANGEL

This is the best position from which to join the Skoll, or the Black Dagger when they find Slagg's ship. We'll make good time in either direction from here.

BLOXHAM

By the time we reach them, they'll have ravaged the ship.

BIG IRISH

I think you mean, ravaged your daughter.

Sensing physical retaliation, Magnus steps in.

MAGNUS

Whoa, now. Let's not go killing each other over "maybes". I'd be more concerned about where that rocket came from, and went to.

Bloxham can't let the thought of Isobel go, but he tries.

BLOXHAM

Shine Town. Their whole city is an  
airbase. It's the only place capable  
of pulling off a launch like that.

BIG IRISH

Think it was meant for us?

MAGNUS

They've never taken interest in our  
business before.

BIG IRISH

We've never had one of their Shiners  
before.

ANGEL

It wasn't for us. It went up, but  
never came down.

BLOXHAM

(absently nods)

They put something in orbit.

BIG IRISH

It's a show of force. They're  
threatening us.

Nobody's sure about that except Big Irish. A beat before  
Bloxham switches thoughts back to Isobel.

BLOXHAM

(at Angel)

Why haven't any new posts come in?

ANGEL

(flatly)

Birds and signal towers don't  
function well in bad weather.

She takes a moment to study Bloxham. A bit of sympathy  
creeps in to her demeanor.

ANGEL (cont'd)

It's a noble thing you seek, Mr.  
Bloxham. But you should be prepared  
to lose your daughter. Not many  
captive women survive out here. If  
they do they're never the same.

There's a hint that she may know first hand what she's  
talking about. Bloxham picks up on it.

BLOXHAM

You do well.

Angel smiles. It's actually quite lovely and disarming.

ANGEL

I'm not a captive woman. I was born on this ship. Your daughter is a Lady -- a rarity up here. She's won't last long.

Bloxham gives her a crappy smile back. He's not going to take the bait.

BLOXHAM

There is no need to provoke me.

ANGEL

It's merely a respectful warning.

(beat)

Happy Jack is amused by your loyalty to family. Don't let that interfere with his endeavors.

Bloxham holds her stare for a moment, and then bows like a gentleman.

BLOXHAM

We have an understanding. Now, if you'll excuse me, I could use a bit of fresh air.

He heads out. Magnus watches him exit.

EXT. HAPPY JACK - COVERED DECK

The rain and wind have slowed. Bloxham stands at the railing as the skies begin to clear. He's torn up inside.

As Magnus joins him, Bloxham pushes those desperate feelings down and hides it well.

BLOXHAM

You never told me how you managed to secure a place on Lady Orlean's envoy.

MAGNUS

She pays more than my last employer.

An uneasy smile from Bloxham. Is Mangus friend or foe?

BLOXHAM

Is that why you're here? Money?

Mangus let's him sweat for a moment, and then...

MAGNUS

There are two bitches that need  
killin', and I aim to be the one to  
get it done.

A more confident smile from Bloxham, but he's still not  
sure.

BLOXHAM

Ah. I see.

MAGNUS

Besides. You're still the Duke, no  
matter what that uppity cream-puff,  
and her toilet paper list of  
signatures says.

Big Irish watches them with great interest through the  
window in the Bridge. He's not liking their private chat  
outside.

MAGNUS (cont'd)

We'll get Lady Isobel back.

BLOXHAM

(firmly)

We will get everything back.

It sounds like he has a plan.

EXT. AIR ISLES - LONGBOAT - DAY

The longboat is a mid-sized troop and cargo carrier vessel.  
It sports a few small engines and a simplistic steering  
system, along with one sail. The one-deck boat is roomy, but  
narrow.

Abilene, Bear, Effie, and Squirrel are all dressed like  
steampunk pirates to hide their identity. The CHIEF  
MECHANIC, RILEY, and Quint are wearing slave cloaks to hide  
theirs.

Quint is at the helm, piloting the boat. Abilene is nearby  
with a gun trained on him. She's sitting in the middle of  
the deck, nervous about heights.

Squirrel and Riley work on fueling the aft engine. Squirrel has found his niche as the Mechanic's Apprentice. Bear keeps an eye on Riley. Effie monitors Kael who lays on a stretcher, unconscious.

After a glance back at Abilene, Quint smirks.

QUINT  
You don't look so well, lass.

ABILENE  
How much longer?

QUINT  
Fifteen out. Think you can hold your breath that long.

Abilene remembers to breathe, and then cocks the hammer back on her gun.

ABILENE  
You better hope so.

Quint smirks and nods. Her threats only entice him. Effie moves toward Abilene after overhearing the conversation.

EFFIE  
You okay?

ABILENE  
(quietly)  
Ain't to fond of heights.

Effie sputters a laugh, and then quickly stops when she gets a glare from Abilene.

EFFIE  
Sorry. You seemed fine before?

ABILENE  
It's a big ship. I didn't have to look down.

Hushing another laugh, Effie nods that it's a good point.

ABILENE (cont'd)  
(at everyone)  
Exactly how do your ships stay airborne out here?

RILEY  
Same way the Isles do, lass!



QUINT

Some claim a gravity schism. Others  
say core magnetism. Personally, I  
think it has to do with the  
centripetal force of quantum magic.

ABILENE

Could have just said you don't know.  
(nod at Kael)  
How is he?

EFFIE

Not good.  
(beat, sigh)  
What do we do if he dies?

ABILENE

Same as always. Survive.

Quint overhears. He can relate.

The longboat continues toward Eden, which is growing bigger  
on the horizon.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. SHINE TOWN - DAY

Clean up CREWS continue to dig through the rubble. They're looking for bodies and survivors, but mostly trying to save the PLANTS.

The HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR reads, "NOLA EXONERATED. FOOD RATIONS IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. SAVE LIVES. BE LIKE NOLA, REPORT A BAD PORT USER."

INT. RECOVERY SUITE

Nola rests on a hospital bed. She is hooked up to a heart monitor, which is steadily BEEPING a normal pulse. Fake flowers adorn a table nearby.

She awakes, and the first thing she sees is Compliance Control Officer 2 standing guard by the door.

Nola begins to scoot up on the bed. Concern creases her brow. Is she under arrest?

The door swings open and in walks Technician 1 looking very welcoming.

TECHNICIAN 1  
You are recovering well, citizen  
Nola. How do you feel?

NOLA  
Sore.

She rubs the back of her neck where her port is located.

TECHNICIAN 1  
Nano-scans are quite the marathon of neural data gathering. Don't worry, you'll be as good as new in a day, or two.

NOLA  
You recovered the evidence?

Tech 1 monitors her vitals.

TECHNICIAN 1  
(happy)  
Indeed. The non-compliance are being charged as we speak.

Nola gulps hard. She chooses her next words carefully.

NOLA  
Did you get them all?

TECHNICIAN 1  
(cheery)  
Thanks to you. One of your work-  
mates...

CUT TO:

INT. GENETICS LAB

A GREEN HAIREED GIRL works at a DNA station. She turns as OFFICERS BURST through the door and grab her.

TECHNICIAN 1 (V.O.)  
... Genetic Scientist, Ina, was  
responsible for hacking the red  
files. She planted evidence against  
you.

CUT TO:

EXT. HYDROPONICS BAY - DAY

KEROS picks through the rubble as part of the clean up team. He looks up as OFFICERS approach. They're coming for him. He slowly backs away. He's telling them they have the wrong man. They keep coming.

TECHNICIAN 1 (V.O.)  
Agriculturalist, Keros, has been  
lobbying the BoT for seed recovery  
expeditions into the Dead Zone. It  
was rejected. He used the rocket to  
terrorize the citizenry, destroy the  
crops, and force the issue.

Keros RUNS! Officers shoot him with multiple charges from their Surge Pistols. He drops.

CUT TO:

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

MIWA is standing at her window, looking down on the city. She looks worried, or guilty. She's just witnessed Keros's arrest.

TECHNICIAN 1 (V.O.)  
 The most disheartening betrayal to  
 the citizenry was what you found on  
 Director Miwa.

The door opens behind Miwa and OFFICERS enter. They say  
 something to her, but she remains facing the window.

TECHNICIAN 1 (V.O.) (cont'd)  
 She altered the exile procedure of  
 her son. And she's been  
 orchestrating the rebels in his  
 absence. Ina and Keros were  
 followers.

The Officers approach Miwa with Surge Pistols drawn. She  
 glances at them in the reflection of the window.

She knows what is coming and prepares. Surrendering  
 peacefully, she places her hands behind her back, but the  
 arrest is brutal. She is slammed against the window and  
 taken to the ground with unnecessary force.

BACK TO SHOT

INT. RECOVERY SUITE

Nola has a small forced grin on her face. This is torment  
 to listen to.

TECHNICIAN 1  
 Your sacrifice and bravery will be  
 heralded throughout the port  
 exchange. You're a hero.

Everything he says is the opposite of what Nola feels, but  
 she can't show it. She must hide it with a smile.

NOLA  
 I'm not.

TECHNICIAN 1  
 Perhaps that's not for you to decide.  
 Now then, if you feel up to it you  
 have visitors waiting on your port  
 exchange.

NOLA  
 Who?

TECHNICIAN 1  
(excited)  
The Board of Trustees.

A SPIKE in Nola's heart rate. The Tech smiles.

TECHNICIAN 1 (cont'd)  
I know. It's a very big deal. Do  
you feel capable of a soft port?

Nola can only nod.

TECHNICIAN 1 (cont'd)  
Very good. This may hurt a little.

He taps in a command on the CONSOLE nearby, and a CHARGE of  
blue electricity ZAPS out of thin air, hitting Nola's PORT.

The blue filaments light up in her skin.

WHITE FLASH

INT. PORT EXCHANGE

A LIVE FLAT IMAGE of SHINE TOWN as it recovers from the  
destruction plays in the background. The Board of Trustees  
watch the scene. Nola PORTS-IN, wincing and rubbing the  
back of her neck.

When she sees the FIVE FACELESS MEN, she recoils a little in  
shock.

TRUSTEE 4  
Citizen 889,348.

TRUSTEE 1  
Citizen Nola.

The voice inflections of the BoT are different, but the  
voices are the same.

TRUSTEE 4  
Welcome.

NOLA  
Uh, thank you. I'm honored.

TRUSTEE 3  
We wish to commend your contributions  
to the citizenry.

Nola looks unsure of what to say, or do. Luckily, the BoT keep talking.

TRUSTEE 2  
Difficult times await our city.

TRUSTEE 5  
But your selfless actions have given hope to our future.

TRUSTEE 1  
Because of you, we have rooted out an insidious virus that threatened our citizens.

TRUSTEE 3  
Because of you, we will refresh their hearts and minds.

TRUSTEE 4  
Because of you, our city will recover.

Nola swallows, and shakes her head. Her shame looks like humbleness.

NOLA  
I... don't know what to say.

TRUSTEE 1  
Your loyalty will be rewarded.

TRUSTEE 2  
Crimes against the non-compliants will be announced by the new Director.

TRUSTEE 3  
You.

Utter horror, which may look like total surprise. Nola shakes her head in rejection.

NOLA  
What? No. I can't.

TRUSTEE 5  
You have our trust.

TRUSTEE 4  
The Overseer has chosen you.

NOLA  
I'm a scientist. I'm not a-

TRUSTEE 2  
Leadership is inherent within your  
DNA.

TRUSTEE 1  
The city needs their savior.

Nola hesitates. She gauges each faceless Trustee. How can she refuse under such pressure? She simply nods.

TRUSTEE 4  
You will carry out the punishment  
ceremony tomorrow.

NOLA  
Exile.

TRUSTEE 5  
Execution.

Nola's mouth starts to drop, but she stops herself.

TRUSTEE 3  
You will set a new precedent.

TRUSTEE 1  
A new era of compliance.

TRUSTEE 2  
New security.

TRUSTEE 4  
A renewed faith with the citizens.

Showing no emotion, Nola clasps her hands behind her back and bolsters her strength.

NOLA  
I understand.

TRUSTEE 4  
Very good.

TRUSTEE 5  
End port.

WHITE FLASH

BACK TO SHOT

INT. RECOVERY SUITE

TECHNICIAN 1  
 Congratulations, Director Nola.

The first words Nola hears makes her want puke. But she  
 plasters on a SMILE.

NOLA  
 Thank you.

TECHNICIAN 1  
 Is there anything I can get you?  
 Water? Tea?

NOLA  
 No. I... I'd like to be alone.

TECHNICIAN 1  
 Certainly.

He merrily starts to leave. Nola looks at the Compliance  
 Control Officer 2 still standing in her room.

NOLA  
 Does he have to say?

TECHNICIAN 1  
 It's for you protection. However, you  
 are the Director now. You may order  
 him to leave if you wish.

NOLA  
 I do.

Technician 1 holds the door open as CC Officer 2 exits.

Alone, Nola looks around the clean, comfortable room. She  
 doesn't deserve this. She's a traitor. She's guilt-ridden.

Her fists clench the sheets and she tries to fight the tears  
 and anger swelling inside. There's nothing she can do  
 except cover her face with a pillow and muffle her cries.

EXT. AIR ISLES - EDEN - DAY

Eden is anything but paradise. This black rock has been  
 augmented from top to bottom. There is a large SIGNALING  
 TOWER on the mainland. Two separate, smaller isles -- the  
 FUEL DEPOT, and SCRAP YARD, on the left are attached to Eden  
 by bridges. On the right are several platforms that make up  
 the docks.



Around the circumference of Eden are three levels of intricate metal balconies that belong to the inner, sub-level slums, and the water and waste reclamation facility.

Every bit of this isle has been utilized for living and business space. It is an ugly, eyesore of human progress, or maybe it is a masterful display of human ingenuity.

EXT. EDEN - DOCKS - DAY

The longboat is secured on deck. Effie pays the DOCK MASTER.

Abilene surveys the lay of the land with a frown. She's not impressed.

ABILENE

Ugh. What's that smell?

Squirrel is wide-eyed and loving this place.

SQUIRREL

Ain't this somethin, y'all?

QUINT

There's no better Free Isle than this.

Riley chuckles.

RILEY

Aye. Women. Beer. Gambling and plenty of doctors to sort out the aftermath.

ABILENE

Seriously, what's that smell?

RILEY

Eden, lass!

Effie joins them.

EFFIE

Okay, we're all paid up. Let's get going.

She hands the coin purse to Abilene, and Riley gives it a lusty look.

RILEY

The scrap yard... she's not free, ya know.

Abilene reaches into the purse and fists a handful of COIN. Riley awaits with hands held out in anticipation. Abilene smiles and bypasses his hands for Bear's.

ABILENE

Meet back here in three hours.

Bear nods, and then follows Squirrel with Riley leading the way.

EFFIE

The Master Surgeon is this way.

Abilene stuffs the coin bag inside her coat, and lifts the back end of Kael's stretcher, while Quint takes the front. They hoist Kael up, and make their way up the ramp to...

EXT. EDEN - MERCHANT ROW - DAY

Steam rises from vents. Moisture drips from everywhere. Vendors line the dirt streets. Drunken pirates prowl, and sing. Prostitutes, slave traders, gambling dens, pubs, and doctor's offices pack the storefronts.

SLAVE TRADER

New slaves! Young slaves! Used slaves! All forms of payment excepted! We even have leasing! We accept all trades, young and old, crippled and dumb! You, lass! Yes, you! Name your price!

Abilene looks up as the Slave Trader approaches. He walks with them. They don't stop moving. The Slave Trader frowns at Kael.

SLAVE TRADER (cont'd)

Oh, this is unusual. He doesn't look so good. Why pay to fix him up when you can trade for a healthier model right now.

ABILENE

Get lost.

Abilene's "cowgirl" accent almost blows their cover.

SLAVE TRADER

You're not from these Isles are you?  
Well, let me make you a great deal.  
You'll never have to carry the back  
end of a stretcher again.

ABILENE

I said-

Effie steps in, and shoves the Slave Trader back  
exceptionally hard. Her accent is gone.

EFFIE

Not for sale. Don't bother us again.

Her hard look sends him in retreat.

SLAVE TRADER

I'm here all day, every day, if the  
prognoses is grim!

Effie passes by Abilene briefly placing a hand on her arm.  
Effie gives her an, "I got this", look, and then takes the  
lead once more.

ABILENE

Damn, Doc... remind me not to cross  
you.

The Slave Trader casts a curious look back in their  
direction. He'll remember them.

The group moves a little further up the MAIN STREET, before  
Abilene just has to ask...

ABILENE (cont'd)

Are all the isles like this?

QUINT

You don't approve?

ABILENE

Let's just say I've seen and smelled  
buffalo pastures better than this.

Quint wags his head.

QUINT

Typical.

ABILENE

Excuse me?

Quint shrugs innocently.

QUINT

The Shiners aren't the only one's living a sheltered life, lass. Up here we see more of the world than you can imagine.

ABILENE

Yeah? Well, up here sucks. You've got more people than places to put them. That's what got you into the war.

Quint stops, which causes Abilene to run her gut into the stretcher with an OOF! Quint turns to face Abilene. There's a fire burning between them. They love to push each others buttons.

Effie doesn't notice, or doesn't care, and keeps walking.

QUINT

It was about Shine Town, you daft dirt dweller. You're worse than the ferals protecting it. You lot are the most greedy, territorial, sods in the whole broken Earth-

Abilene shoves the stretcher into Quint's gut, HARD. He curls under a little. Kael MOANS. They both ignore him.

ABILENE

I lost family in that stupid war!

QUINT

So did I!

A LOUD WHISTLE pierces the air, causing Quint and Abilene to look in the direction it came from.

Effie stands under a SIGN that reads, "MASTER SURGEON SIG". She gives them both a stern "hurry up" WAVE, and then ducks inside the office.

Abilene and Quint being to make their way there, in silence.

INT. MASTER SURGEON SIG'S OFFICE

Effie enters. Nobody is there. She knows this place very well, and starts looking around.

It's very VICTORIAN with ornate furniture, a large library, sitting room, office desk, and spiral staircase that leads down. Medical instruments, augment sketches, anatomy diagrams, and skeletons line the room.

Effie leans over the staircase RAILING.

EFFIE

Master Sig? Are you down there?  
Siggy?

SIG (O.S.)

Who's that? I know that voice.

EFFIE

It's Doctor Effie Harper.

There's a shocked CLATTERING sound below, and then FOOTSTEPS racing up the stairs. An older man wearing a nice Victorian gentleman's suit emerges. As soon as he sees Effie his monocle drops from his eye. He's shocked. Then suddenly very happy, and then appalled.

SIG

No! Oh, no, my dear! It's good to see you. You shouldn't be here. Let me look at you! How wonderful! You should go at once.

After a hug, he tries to escort her toward the door. Effie stops him.

EFFIE

I can't.

She opens the door to let Quint and Abilene enter with Kael.

EFFIE (cont'd)

We need your help.

Sig looks at them, and then the boy on the stretcher. He put's his monocle back on and takes a closer look at Kael from head to toe. Something is different about him. Sig casts a questioning look at Effie.

EFFIE (cont'd)

Please. He's dying.

Not a moments thought more...

SIG

(nods)

This way.

He urgently gestures them into a side room.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. EDEN - MERCHANT ROW - DAY

The PIGEONEER nails an announcement to the PIGEON POST BOARD, the headline reads: ISLES AND PRIDES DECREE. WANTED: BLOOD RAVEN CREW. DETAILS BELOW.

People being to stop by and read the post.

INT. MASTER SURGEON SIG'S - OPERATING ROOM

This is not your average O.R. This looks more like a mechanics workshop. Augment parts, tools, and medical equipment line the walls.

Kael is on a metal table with an I.V. drip hooked up to his arm.

Effie hands Sig a scalpel to cut away the necrotic tissue from Kael's leg wound. They've been working for a while. They both look tired.

SIG

That's the last of it.

He steps back as Effie dresses the wound.

EFFIE

There's plenty of healthy tissue left.

(at Kael)

Here that, you get to keep your leg.

SIG

It will have to be watched closely, but, yes, more than likely the leg will remain intact.

Sig cleans up at a basin.

EFFIE

Thank you for this.

SIG

My pleasure. But you shouldn't have come back. Not even for the lad.

Effie joins him at the basin to wash her hands. She ignores his statement.

EFFIE

I need supplies. Can you spare them?  
We can pay.

SIG

No need for that. What's mine is  
yours.

He moves over to Kael and turns his head to examine the dark  
lines along his skin.

SIG (cont'd)

Such strange markings. Not infection  
though. What kind of augments are  
these?

EFFIE

It's... a long story. The less you  
know the better.

She dries her hands on a towel. He's looking at her, but  
she doesn't want to acknowledge it.

SIG

Effie, dear, I've served Slagg's men  
before. What are you doing with the  
Blood Raven's first mate? Are you in  
trouble?

Effie turns and smiles, carefree.

EFFIE

I'm fine, really. He's a friend-ish  
person. We're friends.

Sig heads over and puts his hands on her shoulders. He's  
worried for her.

SIG

Didn't you make it to the Continental  
Prides?

(at Kael)

Who is this strange fellow?

She shrugs him off. She doesn't want to get into it.

EFFIE

We just need the meds and we'll be  
gone. I don't want to you to worry.  
I'm in good hands, I promise.

Sig backs off and turns to Kael again.



SIG

(sighs)

Very well. But you can't move him.  
Not until he improves. We need to  
see how he reacts to the antibiotics.  
A few more days here at most.

There's anxiety in Effie's voice when next she speaks. It confirms Sig's fears.

EFFIE

We ain't got time for that.

Sig turns to her like a concerned parent.

SIG

Now, Effie, you tell me the truth.  
Did Happy Jack find you again?

She wags her her NO.

EFFIE

But we need to get going.

Sig just nods. He has a solution.

SIG

Leave the lad. I'll take care of  
him.

Effie puts a protective a hand on Kael's shoulder.

EFFIE

That ain't gonna work either.

SIG

Effie dear, let me help you. I can  
arrange safe passage back to the  
Prides. This time stay there and  
don't come back.

That is such a tempting offer. Leaving all this trouble  
behind. Running.

EFFIE

Maybe... but... I don't know. Can you  
keep us for a while, just until he's  
stable?

Sig sighs and wags his head.

SIG

Do you even have to ask? You know,  
you always have a home with me.

She genuinely smiles and gives him a HUG that almost knocks him over.

EFFIE

Thank you, Siggy.

EXT. SHINE TOWN - DAY

Clean up continues. The HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR reads: "16 DEAD. 6 MISSING. 38 INJURED. NOLA INSTATED AS NEW DIRECTOR."

INT. COMPLIANCE CONTROL HQ - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

At the very window where Miwa was arrested, Nola stands in white clothing. She seems different. Distant and cold. She's watching the holographic projector flash headlines, a new one reads, "EXECUTIONS TOMORROW".

After a moment more she spots something in the streets below. She turns to Compliance Control Officer 2.

NOLA

I'm going down.

CC Officer 2 looks flustered.

CC OFFICER 2

I'll need to make arrangements for a security detail, ma'am.

Nola is already on the move and out the door. He hurries to follow.

CC OFFICER 2 (cont'd)

Ma'am? Director?

EXT. SHINE TOWN - STREET

CLEAN-UP CREWS suddenly stop, as one-by-one they see their hero walking the street -- NOLA. WHISPERS and EXCITED MURMURS ripple through the gathering crowd. Nola is a big celebrity, and the crowd's interest intimidates her.

CC Officer 2 is right behind her poised for protection. Other OFFICERS quickly join in the security detail.

CITIZEN 1  
Nola! Thank you!

CITIZEN 2  
We love you!

CITIZEN 3  
You saved us!

CITIZEN 4  
Execute the traitors!

That brings a CHEER from the crowd.

The adoration is just another turn of the knife in Nola's gut. She gives them a tiny NOD and SMILE in answer, and heads for her target.

AXON hauls a broken plant from the rubble of the Hydroponics Bay. He turns to dig some more, but stops when he sees Nola behind him.

AXON  
Nol... Director.

He climbs down from the pile of debris to join her. What's she doing here? Has she come to arrest him too? There's unease as they move closer.

A curious crowd of on-lookers watch with interest.

Nola plasters on a smile and grabs Axon in a TIGHT HUG. The Crowd loves the display of compassion.

NOLA  
(whispers)  
You did this. You fecking bastard.  
You should be executed tomorrow, not  
them.

Axon knows. He frowns and LIMPLY hugs her back.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Was it worth it? Is Kael out there?

She breaks the hug and Axon can only give her a sad wag of the head, NO. That nearly shatters Nola. All this was for nothing? She backs away, more disgusted with him than before, but she can't show it.

Nola turns. She sees the crowd engaged and waiting to hear something from her. It catches her off-guard for a moment, and then she takes a sturdy breath.

NOLA (cont'd)

You... Every one of you are the heroes. Not me. I did what had to be done.

She briefly glances back at Axon. Her words are a confession. He can't even look at her.

NOLA (cont'd)

I promise you. I will make this right. We will survive this. We have no choice.

The Crowd CHEERS. She looks away with a sad smile, and gives them a short wave goodbye before leaving.

Axon looks totally ashamed as he watches her go. He's struggling with this as much as Nola.

EXT. EDEN - MERCHANT ROW - DUSK

Colorful lanterns light the path down the street. Abilene makes her way through the night-life. She's headed for the docks, but oddly SEES Bear standing by a FOOD VENDOR.

She comes up behind him.

ABILENE

Hey, what are you doing here? We were supposed to meet at the docks.

Bear turns with a skewered and roasted animal on a stick.

BEAR

Got hungry.

Abilene turns her nose up at it. It's disgusting. He takes a large bite. It's delicious.

ABILENE

All right, well, change of plans. Kael needs another day or two here to recover. Quint, Doc and I are stayin' till we can move him.

BEAR

Is that wise?

ABILENE

Nope. But Doc ain't budgin', and I ain't leaving her here alone.

Bear nods and takes another bite. Abilene is repulsed.

ABILENE (cont'd)  
Head on back and start the repairs.  
Send the boat tomorrow and we'll  
restock provisions.

BEAR  
Get some of these.

He holds up the animal on his stick. Abilene makes a face.

ABILENE  
I saw a kid playing with that in the  
street earlier.

Bear considers the thought for a moment, then shrugs, and  
takes another bite. Abilene hands him a sack.

ABILENE (cont'd)  
These are antibiotics for Slagg and  
the crew. Doc wrote down  
instructions for Isobel.

BEAR  
Got it. Be back tomorrow.

He starts walking away, and Abilene starts walking in the  
other direction.

Bear slows, he glances over his shoulder. Abilene is gone.  
He turns around, and walks back to the Pigeon Post.

PIGEONEER  
Send a post to a loved one back home?

Bear glances at the BOARD of announcements and sees the  
Bounty for the Blood Raven. He looks at the Pigeoneer.

BEAR  
How much?

PIGEONEER  
Where to?

BEAR  
Continental Prides. Plains Drifters.  
Town of Independence.

PIGEONEER  
Let's see...

He does some calculations. Bear keeps his eye on the Bounty Poster as the Slave Trader comes up to read the board.

PIGEONEER (cont'd)

Two stops along the Isles. One... two more across the Prides. Fifteen pieces will get it there in five days. Sooner if you signal-out the first and last leg, but it will cost you more.

Bear watches the Slave Trader leave.

BEAR

How much sooner?

PIGEONEER

It'll shave two days off the journey.

BEAR

Do it.

He slaps down a fist full of coins, and the Pigeoneer's eyes light up.

PIGEONEER

Yes, Sir! Who are you sending to and what would you like to say?

BEAR

Care of Duke Bloxham. On Eden at date of post. Love, B.R.

PIGEONEER

Excellent. I shall post the signal at once.

He turns to get a specific bird out of the cage.

Meanwhile, Bear nibbles his meal and stands in front of the announcement board. When it's all clear of prying eyes, he pulls the Blood Raven's wanted poster and crumples it up.

As he walks away he tosses it in a BURN BARREL. The poster is in FLAMES.

Mission accomplished.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUREXT. AIR ISLES - BLACK DAGGER - NIGHT

The Sky is pitch black, making the stars shine all the more brighter.

Prowling into the night is the deadly airship, Black Dagger. The MAIN SAIL has an image of a DAGGER STABBING a SKULL'S EYE SOCKET. Lanterns light the ship.

From the CROW'S NEST the SPOTTER sees a TWINKLING LIGHT far off in the distance.

SPOTTER  
SIGNAL POST!

MEN BELOW ECHO the call. ON DECK, HANGMAN lifts his SPYGLASS and reads the FLARE of lights.

HANGMAN  
BUSTER TO EDEN!

The HELMSMAN BURNS the engines, and spins the WHEEL.

HELMSMAN  
AYE! Buster to Eden!

EXT. HAPPY JACK - BRIDGE - NIGHT

Angel is at the window with a high powered TELESCOPE receiving the same FLASHING LIGHT from Eden, which is being sent to their Pigeon Post Isle.

Bloxham rushes in and heads right for Angel.

BLOXHAM  
Well?

ANGEL  
Shh...

The anticipation is killing Bloxham. Finally, Angel looks at him.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
It's for you.

Bloxham frowns. Angel glances back at the WHEELMAN.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
Set course. Full speed, Eden. Alert  
the Skoll.

WHEELMAN  
Aye! Full speed, Eden. Signal the  
Skoll.

ANGEL  
(at Bloxham)  
We have them.

Bloxham exhales his relief, and then turns a stern eye to  
the window. Payback is coming.

EXT. EDEN - MASTER SURGEON SIG'S - NIGHT

Lanterns light the first and second floor. We FOCUS in on  
the second floor where a female figure is standing in the  
window.

INT. MASTER SURGEON SIG'S - BEDROOM

Kael is resting peacefully on a small Victorian bed. The  
room is well decorated for guests.

Effie stands at the window looking out into the streets, but  
she's not really paying attention to much of anything, other  
than her own troubles.

Sig enters the room from behind. Effie startles to see who  
it is. Sig smiles, and offers Effie a TRAY with food.  
There is also a folded piece of PAPER on the tray.

SIG  
I thought you might be hungry. Any  
change?

He speaks of Kael, and hands her the tray.

EFFIE  
He's responding well to the  
antibiotics. What's this?

She sets the tray down and unfolds the PAPER to read it.

SIG  
Your boarding pass. It will get you  
to the Continental Prides. You can  
disappear again. Away from here.



With the PASS in her hands, Effie stares at it, hard. It's literally her ticket out of here. She shakes her head and frowns, but doesn't reject it.

SIG (cont'd)  
This is all the coin you'll need to  
start a new life.

He shoves a small purse of money in her hands and holds them tightly in his.

SIG (cont'd)  
All you have to do is get on that  
ship, and go back to the Prides.  
Happy Jack can't touch you there.

Effie's eyes are locked on her ticket. Her internal struggle is palpable. For a moment it looks like she might take his offer and run, but then she glances at Kael.

Sig follows her gaze back to the bed. Does she have feelings for the boy?

SIG (cont'd)  
Your friends can stay with the lad.  
I'll see that he is well cared for.  
There's no reason for you to put  
yourself in danger. Not for him.

Conflicted, Effie shuts her eyes and looks away. Sig takes her face gently in his hands, and smiles lovingly when she opens her eyes to him.

SIG (cont'd)  
The ship leaves tomorrow. Ask  
yourself, is the lad worth it?

He KISSES Effie's forehead, and then leaves her with the money, the ticket, and her thoughts.

EXT. BLOOD RAVEN - MAIN DECK - NIGHT

The LONGBOAT is back on deck and PARTS are being unloaded by Bear, Wade, Squirrel, Riley and other Townsfolk.

Isobel hurries over. Her dress looks clean, but more utilitarian. A RAPIER hangs from her belt. She is adapting.

ISOBEL  
Thank goodness! Please tell me you  
brought back some decent food.

She looks around at the large pieces of mechanical GEAR on the deck.

BEAR

Tomorrow.

ISOBEL

Tomor... wait. We're not leaving?

WADE

The Shiner is recovering on Eden.

ISOBEL

So, what? Abilene expects us to just sit here and wait? We should be heading home!

SQUIRREL

Ain't no home to go home too. You read the pigeon post.

He reaches back to unload more equipment.

WADE

We have repairs to make. Until then, it's safer here, than out there.

ISOBEL

Mr. Wade, you are in error. My father wishes only for my safe return. Our safe return. We're free from these foul bandits. We must go home at once.

SQUIRREL

Your Pa, he ain't gonna let us walk. 'Specially this crew.

(gestures at Riley,  
his friend)

And when he gets his hands on Abilene and Doc Harper for what they done...

He WHISTLES that something awful is going to happen.

ISOBEL

Those two are the very reason we are here. We were taken against our will.

SQUIRREL

What about the Shiner? Your Pa gonna forgive him too?

A brief moment of doubt has Isobel thinking about it.

WADE

Lady Isobel, you have my respect, you know that. The ship is lame, and there's a bounty on our heads. We'll get sacked before we ever see the Prides. Besides, I'm not leaving our people in the wind. Abilene says we stay. We stay.

SQUIRREL

Yeah.

ISOBEL

Your taking orders from her now?

(quietly)

Don't forget whom you owe. Take me home and my father will take care of you for life.

Wade ignores her and grabs another CRATE. Isobel HUFFS. She's tries a different approach.

ISOBEL (cont'd)

If you don't turn this ship around you're all guilty of kidnapping ME!

Everybody ignores her. Except Bear. He hands her a small sack.

BEAR

(quietly)

Home will come to us.

Isobel frowns at his words, and then the contents of the sack.

ISOBEL

What is this?

She pulls out a bottle of pills and a note.

BEAR

Antibiotics. Doc Harper left instructions for you.

Isobel SCOFFS in offense. She crams the pills and message back in the sack, and then shoves it into Wade's arms.

ISOBEL

I am not Doc Harper's nurse. You like following orders. You medicate Slagg.

She storms off.

EXT. SHINE TOWN - COURTYARD - DAY

HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR reads, "EXECUTION BEGINS IN TEN MINUTES".

A STAGE has been set near the STATUE of Calix Amias, founder of Tesla City.

ON stage are THREE CLEAR TANKS. Each tank is big enough to fit one person. Behind those tanks is what looks like a large water heater tank, and a CANISTER with three thick TUBES connected to the three clear tanks. Nearby is a HOLOGRAPHIC INTERFACE with a CIRCLE that displays, INITIATE.

Something terrible is about to take place here, but amid all the foreboding equipment, and the "hangmans" stage, awaits an EXCITED CROWD. The contrast is disturbing.

People should be mourning their loss, but they've never seen this show before, and they are happy with anticipation. Or is it revenge.

The rock star moment begins as Nola crosses the stage and takes the PODIUM. She is nervous. The Crowd greets her with CHEERS and APPLAUSE. A brief frown slips across her face. This doesn't feel right.

Nola prepares herself to speak, and the crowd QUIETS down. She looks out, ready to start until she sees AXON in front. They hold a stare for a moment, and then she breaks away.

NOLA

Our city. Our great city of Tesla has been our home for many generations, and shall forever give life to the generations hereafter. But only through compliance--

She glances at the side of the stage as OFFICERS bring out MIWA, INA, and KEROS. They are dressed in white skivvies. Suddenly, it hits Nola. This is really happening.

BOO's and HISSING from the crowd.

CITIZEN 4  
SCRUB THEM!

CITIZEN 2  
CORRUPT DATA! KILL THEM!

The sounds of hate force Nola's attention back to the bloodthirsty crowd. What have they become? What will they become? She pushes through and starts again...

NOLA  
Only through compliance can we...

Miwa, Ina, and Keros are marched right behind her, and she can't stop herself from looking at Miwa. Nola's eyes are sorrowful, she wants to ask why, but Miwa quietly shakes her head NO.

Nola looks away. Her next words hit home.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Can we continue to exist.  
(beat, softly)  
Can we?

She's off script. The Crowd and Axon know it. There are MURMURS of confusion. What is Nola doing?

NOLA (cont'd)  
No, we can't.

In that instant Nola makes a decision.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Not in a house divided. We have been betrayed.

She turns her fear and anger into something else, and directs it right at Axon.

NOLA (cont'd)  
(loudly)  
Destruction has been brought to our house. Lies have been brought to our house! Murder has come to our house!

The Crowd is with her. Axon's is quiet, and afraid. It's clear she blames him.

The Officers situate Miwa, Ina, and Keros into the tanks.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 I'm not going to read you the  
 grievances against them.  
 (angry)  
 Look around...

She gestures at the collapsed Hydroponics bay.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 See for yourself what has been  
 done...

The HISS of the tanks seal in the victims. Nola turns toward the tanks and she SHOUTS her next words. She stares right at Miwa with a promise.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 And vow never to let this happen  
 again.

LOUD CHEERS erupt from the Crowd. Axon, CLAPS QUIETLY.

Technician 1 checks the tubes connecting the tanks. Ina, and Keros are terrified, and begging for their lives. Miwa just stands there proud of Nola.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 Witness this moment. Hold it in your  
 hearts. Let it be a reminder.

Technician 1 HITS the holographic INITIATE button, and white GAS begins to fill each tank. PANIC engulfs Ina and Keros. Miwa remains strong. The Crowd gets LOUDER. So does Nola.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 (shouting)  
 Because I promise you, there will  
 come a time when you look back on  
 this day, and it will change you...  
 for the better!

Without looking, Nola points back at the tanks.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 THESE LIVES ARE GIVEN FOR YOU!!

Axon winces and looks down at the ground as there is an audible GASP of horror from the Crowd.

The occupants in the tank begin to MELT. Although the view inside is obscured by the WHITE GAS, we see blood and flesh SMEAR like jelly against the clear walls. Bones melt like milk.

Nola stares into the Crowd, stone-faced. Their horrified expressions tell her all she needs to know. The crowd deserves this.

Technician 1 hits the Holographic COMMAND interface and the gas is SUCKED OUT of the tanks, revealing a pile of goo at the bottom, and only INTACT METAL HARDWARE. Notably, Miwa's PORT EXCHANGE and other SMALL COMPONENTS.

The Crowd is dead SILENT in a state of collective shock.

NOLA (cont'd)  
(flatly)  
Work shift two begins in one hour.

She leaves the podium and doesn't look back at the tanks as they are opened.

Again the Crowd GASPS. They cover their noses and mouths. There is a stench in the air that hits them hard.

Technician 1 catches Nola OFF STAGE.

TECHNICIAN 1  
Truly inspiring speech, Director.  
You are a breath of fresh air.  
Exactly what the city needs right  
now.

There's no reaction from Nola.

NOLA  
I want Miwa's port exchange. As a  
souvenir.

TECHNICIAN 1  
Yes. Certainly. After it has been  
properly scrubbed of all data.

Nola nods and walks off. Her SECURITY DETAIL joins her.

The Crowd, a deflated, traumatized mass of people disperse.

Axon remains standing at the front of the stage, watching a clean-up crew VACUUM up the liquefied remains of Miwa, Ina, and Keros.

A deep frown of determination grips his face. Their deaths will not be in vain.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVEEXT. AIR ISLES - EDEN - DAY

Clouds have rolled in. Visibility is low. Parts of Eden are covered in a damp fog.

INT. EDEN - MASTER SURGEON SIG'S - BED ROOM

Kael remains unconscious in the luxury of his bed. He is still hooked up to an I.V., but he has more color in his face.

Next to him, Effie has fallen asleep in a chair. She hasn't left his side.

The door creeps open and Abilene pokes her head in. When she sees that Effie has been there all night, she enters to wake her with a gentle hand on the shoulder.

ABILENE

Hey.

Effie stirs. Where is she? She sits up, groggy, and is reminded of her troubles.

EFFIE

Hey.

ABILENE

He looks better. How is he?

Moving, Effie goes into doctor-mode. She checks his heart with a stethoscope, checks his forehead, and finally the I.V. bag.

EFFIE

Fever's down.

She flops back in her chair, and slumps. The conversation with Sig is weighing heavily on her mind.

ABILENE

Good. When will he wake up?

EFFIE

No idea.

That's not encouraging. Abilene sighs.



ABILENE

Well, we resupplied the Blood Raven. Bear should have made it back to the ship by now. The fog is rollin' in. So, that'll give them more cover.

Effie seems distant. Detached. Perhaps depressed.

ABILENE (cont'd)

(beat)

I thought I'd try one of the pub's. Want to come?

EFFIE

Check the pigeon post first.

ABILENE

Did that. As much as I love a good wanted poster, our bounty hasn't reached Eden yet.

Effie doesn't move. She just stares at Kael.

EFFIE

Are we still doing this?

Totally confused, Abilene makes a face.

ABILENE

Uh... n-yes? What?

EFFIE

This. Kael. Black Veil. What if we just give him back to the Shiners, or the Duke, and be on our way?

Now, Abilene understands. Doubt and despair. They've all felt it.

ABILENE

You can't mean that.

EFFIE

Maybe. We lost a lot of folks. Is this really worth dyin' over?

Abilene looks between Kael and Effie. It's a good question. She sits on the edge of Kael's bed, across from Effie, and holds her gaze.

ABILENE

Look, I don't know what's going to happen. Maybe he's

(MORE)

ABILENE (cont'd)

(at Kael)

full of crap and none of this will change a damn thing. Or maybe it changes everything.

(beat)

The way I figure it, if we don't do it for the right reasons, someone will do it for the wrong. And that don't sit well with me. So we best try.

(smile)

Besides, if the Shiners are lobbing rockets at us, we must be doing something right.

Effie chuckles through her fears.

EFFIE

We did unite the Prides and the Isles.

ABILENE

Yeah, we're peacemakers, all right.

Abilene hesitates after Effie doesn't react.

ABILENE (cont'd)

Sure you're okay?

Effie snaps out of it. She puts on a fake smile.

EFFIE

Yeah. Yeah, go on without me. I'm good here.

Reluctantly, Abilene leaves.

A moment passes. Alone, Effie pulls out the boarding pass ticket and ponders it. Another second, and then she places a hand on Kael's arm.

EFFIE (cont'd)

You were right, Shiner. I helped you for selfish reasons. I was only lookin' out for myself. Running is what I do best.

OUTSIDE HALL

Abilene is on the other side of the door. She heard every word, and it's concerning. Quietly, she walks away.

EXT. BLOOD RAVEN - DAY

Thick clouds and the rocky shoals give cover to the airship.

A LOOKOUT is in the CROW'S NEST surveying the skies with a spyglass.

INT. BLOOD RAVEN - BRIG

Wade BANGS on the cell door. Beyond the bars Slagg is resting on a pile of hay. The CREW occupies the same cell.

WADE

Come get your meds, Slagg.

Slagg doesn't move.

SLAGG

You took my ship. You took my only reason to live. Will ye not leave me to die?

PIRATE

Aye, let'im die!

Most of the CREW agrees. They seem to have turned against Slagg.

SLAGG

Ah, shut yer putrid mouths. Fickle dogs.

WADE

Get your fat ass up and take your medicine like a good lad.

Slagg climbs to his feet and wearily approaches the cell door.

SLAGG

Why does she keep me alive?

Wade drops the pills in his hand and waits for Slagg to take them before he tells him anything.

WADE

I suppose Abilene intends to use you as a bargaining chip.

(smirk)

Or stuff you in a cannon and blow you out the aft.

The pirates get a good laugh out of that. Slagg bristles and reaches for Wade through the bars. Wade lurches back. Fear flashes across his face, and Slagg laughs at the moment of weakness.

SLAGG  
What of my first mate? Did she kill  
the blighter?

Wade quickly regains his composure. Smiles and walks away without an answer.

SLAGG (cont'd)  
Is he dead?! Tell me!

INT. EDEN - SWEET'S PUB

Drunken PIRATES, WORKING GIRLS, GAMES, GAMBLING, MUSIC and a few HONEST CUSTOMERS crowd the room. The SLAVER TRADER is at the bar having a drink.

Still wearing a hooded cloak, Quint picks up a couple of BEERS from the bar. Underneath all that cloth, the Slave Trader seems to recognize Quint.

Abilene sits at a corner table with her boots in an empty chair. She observes the room. It's not much different from a saloon back home.

Quint returns with the two frothy beers. He hands one to Abilene and she takes her feet out of his chair.

QUINT  
I'm surprised you invited me.

Abilene takes a sip of her drink. It's good.

ABILENE  
Can't shoot you if you ain't here.

She smiles, as she pulls back her coat to reveal her stainless steel pistol.

QUINT  
You keep flashing me your hardware  
like that, and I might think you  
fancy me.

That gets small sarcastic laugh from Abilene.

Quint drinks, and eyes her up. She keeps one eye on him and one on the crowd.

QUINT (cont'd)  
You still don't trust me.

ABILENE  
You're a pirate. Not much there to trust.

QUINT  
So is your Doctor.

Abilene gives him a sideways frown. He laughs at her.

QUINT (cont'd)  
C'mon, lass. How else would she know about Eden, Sig, and flying a bloody airship. She's a pirate through and through.

ABILENE  
(firmly)  
She's a friend.

Quint smirks.

QUINT  
Then you do trust a pirate.

After receiving a very DIRTY look from Abilene, Quint surrenders and drinks quietly.

Crowd NOISE fills the silence.

The Slave Trader casts a look over his shoulder at Abilene and Quint. He's on to them...

Quint reaches into his pocket and pulls out a tiny trinket, a METAL AIRSHIP. He lets go of it about a foot off the table and IT FLOATS.

Abilene gives the ship, and him, a curious little smirk.

QUINT (cont'd)  
You asked how the isles and ships float. Well, I don't know, but the ore has something to do with it.

He taps the airship and it floats toward Abilene. She grins and plucks it out of the air to examine it.

ABILENE  
Is this the Blood Raven?

QUINT  
Aye. Made it myself.

She's impressed with his work.

QUINT (cont'd)  
Keep it. She's your ship now anyway.  
The first ever Prides Captain.

ABILENE  
Not funny.

She hangs onto the trinket airship, and sips her drink. She takes a leap of faith with her next words.

ABILENE (cont'd)  
Who did you lose in the war?

That's a heavy question. He chugs the beer before answering.

QUINT  
Older brother. Father. Went down on  
the same ship. Breaker Pride got'em.  
You?

Abilene pauses. She can see that the loss still hurts him.

ABILENE  
Aunt and her entire family. Dusters  
ran through town. Burned it all.

Quint quietly nods. They share the candid moment in silence, and then Quint lifts his glass.

QUINT  
Peace to each brave soul that  
sleepeth. Rest to each faithful eye  
that weepeth.

They toast and drink.

The heartfelt words touch Abilene unexpectedly. She starts to see Quint in a different light.

The Slave Trader exits, and it catches Abilene's eye. She's been watching him too.

EXT. BLOOD RAVEN - DAY

The clouds are breaking up. From the CROW'S NEST the Lookout searches the sky with a spyglass.

THROUGH SPYGLASS

Clouds. Blue skies. More clouds. Half of Eden engulfed in a cloud. A piece of FLAPPING CLOTH breaks through a cloud for a moment then disappears.

BACK TO SHOT

The Lookout cleans the lens on the spyglass then brings it back up to his eye.

THROUGH SPYGLASS

As big as day, from out of a cloud emerges an airship! The flapping cloth is the Main Sail of the BLACK DAGGER, and it is right on Eden's doorstep.

BACK TO SHOT

Panic strikes the Lookout.

LOOKOUT

Oh, shi-

EXT. STERNCastle DECK -HELM

LOOKOUT (O.S.)

(SHOUTS)

SHIIIIIP! AIRSHIP AT EDEN!

Wade and the rest of the crew scramble at the call from above. He grabs his spyglass and runs to the rail of the ship.

EXT. BLACK DAGGER - MAIN DECK - DAY

Hangman organizes his CREW. Weapons are handed out, and the pirates are made ready to storm Eden.

In the foreground sits Eden in a thick fog, unaware of the impending doom.

THE END