

BLUE EMPEROR

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Volume 2

Episode 1

"Hard Part's Over"

An anthology webseries

FROM BLACK:

TITLE:

BLUE EMPEROR

FADE IN:

EXT. SOME ANONYMOUS STREET - DAY

A soundless scape. Two police cars and an ambulance remain idle by the side of the road. Their lights flaring. A number of on-lookers stand by an area, yellow tape blocking their path. A POLICE OFFICER cordons off the entry.

Shattered glass lay on the asphalt. Specks of blood on them. A SENIOR DETECTIVE, blue tie, elegant suit, interviews a HYSTERICAL WOMAN. She fights a losing battle with her emotions.

Her name is CELIA (36), a woman who still looks very young for her age. The DETECTIVE interviewing her is SILBY, a man who has years of experience.

A few of the on-lookers have their phone cameras pointed at the SCENE.

Detective Silby looks back to see - a pair of POLICE OFFICERS entering the SCENE through the yellow tape.

Another POLICE CAR halts to the side of the road, noticing that the street includes a--

HIGH SCHOOL

The staff parking is just across the street. Most of the curious on-lookers are students in the high school. And it's not even afternoon yet.

Two PARAMEDICS pull a gurney out of the High School grounds. Strapped onto the gurney is KYLE WAKEFIELD (14), freckles, a handsome young man who has inherited his mother's beauty.

He lays unconscious on the gurney. He is battered and bruised. His hands and left arm is broken.

His mother, Celia breaks down when she sees her son carted away unconscious by the Paramedics.

Within the soundless scape that envelops the scene, Detective Silby gives her a few comforting words that are hard to fathom by broken people.

A few TEENAGERS murmur to themselves.

Police Officers begin to interview some of the students in the area.

A LARGE KID, TOA MENDEL (17) is escorted from the High School, hands cuffed, by a rookie Police Officer.

He puts Toa inside one of the cruisers.

Celia points an accusing finger at Toa. She marches over to the Cruiser that holds Toa. Detective Silby tries to stop her, but Celia doesn't stop.

Once she reaches the cruiser, she knocks at the window, taunting Toa. He cowers in fear.

Celia is inconsolable. She tries the door, it doesn't open. Finally, a Police Officer pulls her away from the cruiser. She starts to bawl, furious.

Detective Silby takes a deep breath. Toa glances at Celia with regret in his eyes.

The Paramedics pushes the gurney inside the back of the ambulance. One Paramedic hops in the back of the ambulance.

The Paramedic closes the doors.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

Kyle remains unconscious.

The Paramedic beside him tries to nurse him like the Angel of Mercy.

CLOSE ON: Kyle's face. As we--

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WAKEFIELD HOME, KYLE'S ROOM - DAY

The walls are plastered with posters of INDIE FOLK BANDS, and other modern rock bands from the 70's to present.

The room is what parents would call a pig sty, but teenagers would proudly call 'their room'.

It is dark. The room hasn't been introduced by the sun yet, blinded by the curtains.

Kyle lies in his bed, asleep.

Suddenly, his phone on the night-stand lights up as the alarm screams "All Alone" by Blind Witness, the soundtrack that wakes Kyle up.

Kyle's eyes open. They flutter.

His eyes looks at his cell-phone. He reaches to grab it, killing the noise.

Kyle throws his phone back to the night-stand. He shuffles to his side, his back to us as he falls back to sleep.

INT. WAKEFIELD HOME, STAIRS - DAY

The wall is decorated with FAMILY PORTRAITS. One of them are of Celia and her husband, ROBERT. In the picture, they hold their baby daughter, who is wearing the cutest frock. She smiles at the camera.

Another picture portrays the CUTE BABY GIRL, lying prone on a furred mattress, beaming at the camera. Her eyes azure.

Kyle trots down the stairs, groggily. Rubbing his eyes.

INT. WAKEFIELD HOME, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kyle walks to the living room where his parents, and his little sister FRAN (6) sit to eat breakfast.

Celia notices her son enter the room.

CELIA

Good morning, love. Why don't you take a seat. I'll be a moment.

Kyle sits on the table, next to his sister. Fran smiles at Kyle.

FRAN

Morning.

KYLE

Morning.

FRAN

Keen to go swimming with us?

KYLE

Nah, I've got lots of homework to do.

FRAN

Mum...Kyle said no!

CELIA

You heard him sweetie.

FRAN

But I want to hang out with you.

KYLE

I don't know.

Celia marches over to the table, scrapes a sunny-side up onto Kyle's plate.

Kyle takes a few toasted bread into his plate and dips a bread into the egg.

FRAN
It'll be good.

Kyle looks at Fran.

KYLE
Don't plead.

Celia looks at Kyle.

FRAN
Don't be mean. It's my birthday,
you have to oblige me anyway you
can, so...

Fran smiles mischievously at Kyle.

KYLE
The answer is no.

FRAN
But come on, you're my brother.

Celia looks at Fran.

CELIA
That's enough, Fran. If Kyle
doesn't want to...you can't force
anyone.

FRAN
Fine.

Kyle looks at Fran.

KYLE
(beat)
You're good. Guilt tripping me into
submission. You're good.

Fran smiles.

FRAN
You changed your mind.

Celia looks at Kyle, dejected. And Kyle back to Celia.

KYLE
Someday you're going to manipulate
someone into doing something for
you.

FRAN
I take after you.

Fran smiles at Kyle.

KYLE
Noob.

Kyle glances at Celia, despondent. He bows his head.

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, ENTRY - DAY

Celia hauls a heavy bag. Fran is all ready to take a dip on the pool. And Kyle is still dressed in a hood.

Kyle sees his mother struggling with the bag.

KYLE
Let me get that for you.

CELIA
Ta.

As they step into the stairs...

FRAN
Are you even going to get changed?

Celia looks at Kyle.

KYLE
Maybe later, alright.

Kyle kisses his sister on the forehead.

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, SIDE LINES - DAY

Celia sits on the bench, playing with her iPad. Kyle observes Fran frolicking in the bed of water.

Kyle points his cell-phone camera at Fran and snaps a picture. Fran swims to the side lines.

FRAN
Kyle!

KYLE
What is it?

FRAN
Aren't you going to join me? Come on! The water's not that cold!

A beat. Kyle glances at his sister, who looks at him with great expectation.

Kyle dips his hand in the water and splashes water towards Fran, who giggles playfully.

FRAN (CONT'D)

Come.

KYLE

I'll be moment.

Kyle walks over to Celia, and seizes the bag beside her. Celia looks at Kyle.

CELIA

Are you sure?

But Kyle only gives Celia a simple look.

CELIA (CONT'D)

I won't stop you.

And with that, Kyle disappears with the bag.

Celia looks back at Kyle. Fran continues having fun in the water.

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, CORRIDOR - DAY

A few people come in and out of the toilets. Kyle stands at the entry, glancing at the insignias of "MEN" and "WOMEN".

He glances back and forth at the symbols. Back and forth. A beat.

A blonde young woman bumps into Kyle as she exits the WOMEN'S CHANGING ROOMS.

YOUNG WOMAN

Sorry.

KYLE

Pardon me.

The Young Woman leaves. Kyle glances at her, checking her out. The Young Woman looks back at Kyle. He gives half a smile.

As he walks into the Men's Changing Room, he bumps into a heavysset man.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

MAN

Watch where you're going.

KYLE

Sorry.

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, MEN'S CHANGING ROOM - DAY

Kyle slowly walks into the room. A few people are naked. Some are changing into their clothes.

Kyle reaches to a bench, sets his bag down. He glances at someone next to him.

That Guy suddenly notices.

 THAT GUY
 (annoyed)
 Help you?

 KYLE
 Sorry.

Kyle pushes his bag a few metres from the guy. He just stands next to his bag uncomfortably.

Kyle unzips his hoodie and deposits it into the bag. He stops himself as he is about to pull his shirt off. Kyle glances awkwardly around the changing room.

He immediately grabs his bag and walks into the toilets. He waits at the queue. When the Kyle walks into the stall, he bumps into another man.

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, TOILET STALL - DAY

Kyle pulls the lid down and sets his bag on top of it. He slips out of his shirt, revealing he is an androgynous teen who was born "BRITTANY WAKEFIELD" but now known by his parents as Kyle. Kyle looks at his developed breasts, in distress.

He starts to undress, placing his clothes into the bag. He takes a wetsuit from the bag and slips into it.

Closing up the bag, Kyle exits the stall.

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, MEN'S CHANGING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kyle emerges from the stalls and walks into the mirror. He studies himself.

He opens the faucet, and squeezes liquid soap from a dispenser. He begins washing his hands.

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, SIDE LINES - DAY

Kyle walks back to the side lines, where his mother is seated, lugging the heavy bag.

Celia looks at Kyle.

CELIA
Kyle, everything all right?

KYLE
Yeah.

Kyle gives Celia a reassuring smile.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Everything's good. Hard part's
over.

Celia smiles back at Kyle. She kisses Kyle on the cheek.

Fran notices Kyle standing by the wayside.

FRAN
(to Kyle)
Come on!

KYLE
Okay.

Celia looks as her children have fun in the water.

IN THE POOLS

Kyle dives into the water, holding his breath. Beneath, he sees the Blonde Young Woman gracefully slithering underneath the water.

The Blonde Young Woman notices Kyle she re-surfaces.

Kyle emerges from the depths.

The Young Woman glances back at Kyle with a smile. Kyle reciprocates.

Suddenly, Kyle is attacked with a splash of water.

FRAN
Pay attention to me!

KYLE
Alright! Jeez!

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, SIDE LINES - DAY - LATER

Kyle walks back to join his mother. Celia hands Kyle a towel. Celia is about to stand up.

CELIA
You getting changed?

KYLE
Nah, I'm fine. I'll take a shower
when we get home.

CELIA

Okay. Watch out for our stuff.

Celia walks with Fran to the changing rooms. As Kyle wraps himself into the towel, he sees the Young Woman emerging from the pool. She looks at Kyle.

Kyle waves. The Young Woman gives half a smile. As she walks to the opposite side of the room, she joins a man seated next to a girl who is presumably her HUSBAND and her DAUGHTER.

The Young Woman's husband hands her a towel.

Kyle looks on in disbelief.

The Husband gives the Young Woman a kiss. She takes her Daughter's hand and they walk down the bleachers.

BACK TO KYLE.

KYLE

Jesus.

In the distance, we see Kyle sitting alone on the benches. His head bowed in shame.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. PUBLIC POOLS, ENTRY - DAY - LATER

Celia, Fran and Kyle emerge from the stairs. Kyle is wrapped in a towel.

CELIA

(to Fran)

How was it?

FRAN

It was good. But cold. I feel like Antarctica.

CELIA

What?

Celia laughs. Kyle is silent.

When they reach the automatic doors, Kyle notices the Young Woman with her family. Her Husband retrieves a few snacks from the vending machine.

Kyle looks back at the Young Woman. When Kyle and his family has vacated the premises, the Young Woman looks back.

The Young Woman says something to her Daughter.

INT. WAKEFIELD HOME, KYLE'S ROOM - DAY

The door to the bathroom is closed.

INT. WAKEFIELD HOME, KYLE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kyle examines himself in the mirror, naked. Dejected that she is trapped in Brittany's body. But she is Kyle.

Slowly, condensation fogs up the mirror, distorting his whole body.

Kyle steps inside the shower, putting himself under running water.

Water wipes Kyle's face.

Fog continues to build as we look down onto Kyle, in the showers.

FADE TO BLACK.