

CRUSADERS #6
THE TRIAL

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TEASER

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - CAMPSITE

JAMES slowly gets to his feet, Phoebe squeezing his hand as he does so. The eyes of everyone in the makeshift courtroom locked on him. BEN HARVEY gives him a slight smile as James pulls his hand free of Phoebe, who looks at him worried. In front of him, the prosecutor, KARL KHAN, gives him a sympathetic smile, motioning for the chair next to the three judges.

James risks a look at each judge in turn, The Christian, Alex Patterson, the Muslim, Miqdaad Patel and the Jewish judge, Emma Weinstein, as he heads towards the chair.

KARL KHAN
Please, take a seat.

James nods as he takes his seat.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)
State your name, age and place of
birth for the court.

James nods.

JAMES
My name is James Harris, 18, from
Tikvah,

POV. CAGE

MARK and DAWN are standing at the bars, watching as James is sworn in.

DAWN
This isn't going to end well for
us.

MARK
No kidding.

Behind them ALYSSA hugs on to TOMMY. Fear clear as day on her face.

ACT ONE

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - CAMPSITE

Sorrow washes over James face as he locks eyes with Phoebe in the crowd.

JAMES

We were on the top of lookout peak.

Karl stands in front of James, his eyes scanning the crowd. They turn back to James.

KARL KHAN

Lookout peak?

James looks up at him.

JAMES

It's a mountain top.

KARL KHAN

And why were you there?

James' eyes lock back onto Phoebe.

JAMES

I was there with my girlfriend. It was. . .

Karl follows his gaze to Phoebe.

KARL KHAN

A romantic get away between young lovers?

James nods as Karl turns back to face him.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)

A night that should have been special,

He turns to face the crowd.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)

Cut short by. . .

He stops and turns back towards James.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)

Well, by what? What did you see? From your high vantage point?

JAMES
Everything.

KARL KHAN
Everything?

JAMES
At first it was like giant fireworks. Then two ships flew down in front of us, firing at each other before heading back into space. That's when. . . When the nukes dropped.

POV. CAGE

Tommy pulls away from Alyssa as he gets to his feet.

TOMMY
We did that.

MARK
Bullshit! We weren't in the Terminators!

Alyssa gets up.

ALYSSA
Does it matter? We wear the uniform. We came here, knowing what the mission was. Doesn't that put us at fault?

MARK
No! I didn't want this! I didn't want any of this!

DAWN
None of us did. Think that makes any difference?

The four teammates stand there, avoiding each other's eyes.

EXT. ROMBA - SPACEPORT - NIGHT

DAVID, still in his hospital gown, stumbles through the deserted spaceport. His focus locked onto the Shooting Star.

He stumbles up the ramp of the ship, tripping as he does so.

Sweat dripping down his face as he looks around to make sure he is alone. He is.

He quickly punches in the code before the doors slide open and he rushes inside

INT. SHOOTING STAR - CONTINUOUS

No sooner is he inside and the door slides shut then he collapses onto the floor. His heart pounding so loud it echoed through the room. His breathing verging on hyperventilating.

INT. ROMBA - BAR

The joint is packed to the rim. SCOTT sits in a booth near the back with JIM.

A table nearby sits XANDER and ZACK, pretending to not listen in.

JIM

So you have a crew of three?

SCOTT

Counting me, yeah.

JIM

And what do you have to offer me?
We don't just hand out jobs to everyone who comes a-knocking, you know.

SCOTT

I wouldn't expect you to, but I also don't get the feeling that a whole lot of people come to you directly. Am I wrong?

Jim smiles.

JIM

Not so much. I'm not the easiest man to track down. I'll give you that.

He waits for Scott to respond, he doesn't.

JIM (CONT'D)

So, as I asked before, what do you have to offer, skill wise?

SCOTT

Whatever you need done, we'll get done, as long as it's off world.

JIM
Off world? Now that's a lot
tricker. We don't do much business
off planet.

SCOTT
But, you do do some work off world,
correct?

JIM
Give me a couple days to think it
over. We can meet back here.

SCOTT
Fair enough.

Jim smiles as he gets up.

JIM
See you soon.

Jim walks towards the exit, leaving Scott sitting alone. When
Jim leaves the bar Xander and Zack get up and join Scott at
the booth.

XANDER
So, we don't trust a word outta his
mouth.

SCOTT
Not a one.

ZACK
Wait, what? Why not?

XANDER
You need us to spell it out for
you?

ZACK
If you don't mind, yeah! He's our
best shot off world!

SCOTT
He's stringing us along.

XANDER
Means he's working other angles.

ZACK
Or he's just being cautious!

SCOTT

Of what, if we try to screw him over, he'll just kill us. He's trying to see what he can get out of us.

ZACK

Work! That's why we came to him for a job!

XANDER

And if that's the best offer on the table he'll take it.

SCOTT

But if he finds out about the reward on our heads.

XANDER

Exactly!

EXT. ROMBA - BAR

Jim exits the bar and walks over to two men in suits.

SUIT ONE

How'd it go boss?

JIM

They are eager to get off world. Too eager.

SUIT TWO

What are we thinking boss?

They make for the bar's parking lot.

JIM

The bank robbers that Flemings is after, were there 3 or 4 of them?

SUIT TWO

4.

SUIT ONE

But they killed one in a motel. We thinking this is them?

They stop in front of Jim's hover car. It's high end.

JIM
Could be. Find out from Flemings.
If the rewards are worth it, we
might just cash in.

SUIT TWO
On it boss.

Suit two takes off as Suit One and Jim get into their car.

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - CAMPSITE

Ben scans the crowd as James talks.

JAMES
Mark saved my life. I fell, hard,
and he came for me. He didn't have
to. It would have been easier for
him to just leave me. But he
didn't. He saved me.

KARL KHAN
He saved you?

JAMES
He did.

The crowd is not happy with what James is saying.

KARL KHAN
Are you sure?

James nods.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)
Let me ask you something. When you
fell and he came for you, were you
happy to see him? Did you worry,
even for a second, about Phoebe?

James locks eyes with Phoebe, he then looks at the cage,
where all four of them look uneasy.

Karl follows his gaze.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)
I would thank you to remember that
you are under oath. You do recall
the punishment for perjury do you
not?

James looks away from the cage and at the ground.

JAMES

Death.

KARL KHAN

So I ask again. Were you worried,
even for a second about Phoebe.
Alone, with the enemy?

James nods.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)

I need to hear it.

JAMES

I was worried about her.

KARL KHAN

What were you worried they would do
to her?

JAMES

Kill her.

POV. CAGE

Mark hits the cage.

MARK

Fuck!

The crowd turns to look at them. Karl smiles.

INT. ROCKWELL - PETER'S HOUSE - CLOSET

The room is pitch black. All we can hear is slow steady
breathing.

Footsteps approach the door.

The breathing inside grows more rapid.

The footsteps grow louder.

A deep breath calms the rapid breathing just in time for the
door to swing open. An older stern man in a tuxedo is
standing in the frame.

BUTLER

On your feet.

Erica, still in the maid outfit the Dealer Twins put her in,
slowly gets to her feet. A metal collar around her neck.

ERICA
 (weakly)
 Wh...where am I?

He slaps her across her face, knocking her back.

BUTLER
 You do not speak! Unless a question
 is asked of you. Do you understand?

She nods as she gets back on her feet.

He slaps her again.

BUTLER (CONT'D)
 I asked a question! You answer it!

ERICA
 I understand.

BUTLER
 Sir.

ERICA
 (swallows)
 I understand, sir.

He nods, turns and heads down the hall. A large fancy hall
 with paintings lining the sides.

She follows, her head hung low.

BUTLER
 You are to clean, cook and take
 care of anything Mr. Williams
 needs. I am in charge of the staff,
 so you will be taking orders
 directly from me, unless Mr.
 Williams says otherwise.
 Understood?

ERICA
 Yes sir.

BUTLER
 You are not to interact with the
 other staff. Ever, even when you
 work with them. One word uttered
 and you lose a tongue. Understood?

ERICA
 Yes sir.

They exit the hall into

INT. PETER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

It is a large room, with furniture that must have cost a fortune. It is clearly the house of someone who wants to show off wealth. The room is right out of an Ikea catalog.

BUTLER

Now, Mr. William's is expecting guests over this evening. I expect this room to be spotless.

The room is spotless.

BUTLER (CONT'D)

You have a great deal of work to do.

With that he turns and leaves.

Erica stands there for a moment, looking around. Unsure of what she is supposed to do.

INT. ROMBA - MOTEL

Scott picks up his jacket as Zack and Xander watch on.

XANDER

Are you sure it's a smart idea to go it alone?

Scott puts the jacket on as he heads to the door.

SCOTT

As opposed to taking the two of you along? I'll take my chances.

XANDER

What's wrong with us?

ZACK

You really need him to answer that?

XANDER

Fair enough.

With that Scott is out the door.

ZACK

What do you think he's going to find?

XANDER

My guess? That we are screwed. This Jim guy doesn't seem like the type to waste time. My money is he either already knows about us, or at least suspects. Either way, we're fucked.

Zack falls back on the bed, letting out a sigh.

ZACK

That's just great.

Xander nods.

XANDER

Ain't it just.

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - CAMPSITE

James sits on the stand looking deflated.

Karl stands in front of him, a smile on his face.

KARL KHAN

So he confessed that the reason they attacked was simply because of our faith?

JAMES

Yes, but...

KARL KHAN

But that's the type of people they are. I agree.

Karl turns to face the crowd.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)

And I think it's something we all needed to hear.

JAMES

That's not wha...

Karl turns towards the judges.

KARL KHAN

That's all I need, thank you.

MIQDAAD

Very well. Mr. Harvey.

Karl walks to his table as Ben gets to his feet.

JAMES

That wasn't what I was trying to say.

Ben nods as he walks up to him.

BEN HARVEY

I understand, but is it true?

JAMES

What?

BEN HARVEY

After spending all this time with them, do you believe, in your heart, that we were attacked here for our faith?

James sits in silence for a moment.

EMMA

You will answer the question.

JAMES

Yes, they admitted that was the reason for the attack, but...

BEN HARVEY

But what?

JAMES

But that wasn't why they came.
(points at the cage)
They didn't have a choice.

Ben nods as the crowd hisses.

BEN HARVEY

So they don't share their people's hatred of us?

JAMES

No, I don't think they do.

Ben nods looking down, thinking, he looks up sideways at James.

BEN HARVEY

So they never insulted your faith?

James doesn't answer.

BEN HARVEY (CONT'D)

I see.

JAMES

They saved me!

BEN HARVEY

Did you feel safe with them?

JAMES

What?

BEN HARVEY

Simple question. While they had you chained to a tree, did you feel safe?

JAMES

They aren't the League.

BEN HARVEY

They weren't sent here by the League?

JAMES

(pleading)

Ben.

MIQDAAD

I would like to hear the answer.

EMMA

As would I.

ALEX

Now, if you would please.

JAMES

Yes.

Ben nods.

BEN HARVEY

I have no further questions. Thank you.

Ben walks back to his table and takes a seat.

EMMA

You may step down.

James gets up, a look of shame on his face.

Karl gets up and heads to the front.

James walks over to Phoebe who gets to her feet and hugs him.

 PHOEBE
 (whispers)
 It's okay.

James pulls away.

 JAMES
 This whole trial is a scam.

Eyes turn to look at him.

 PHOEBE
 (whispers)
 James!

 JAMES
 I'm done with this!

He turns to leave, when Karl smiles.

 KARL KHAN
 I call Phoebe Miller to the stand.

James stops in his track. He turns around and locks eyes with Phoebe, a look of fear in her eyes.

 END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SHOOTING STAR

David sits with his back against the wall. Tears streaming down his face.

DAVID

What was I thinking? Father was right, I am not cut out for this. Maybe I never was.

He gets to his feet, his head hung low.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Perhaps it is time for me to stop kidding myself and return home. Take whatever punishment is due and move on.

(he nods)

That is what a man would do. What my father would do.

He starts down the hall, tears flowing.

EXT. ROMBA - SPACEPORT

Jim walks past the Shooting Star with Scott following close behind.

Jim turns into an alley at the end of the street.

Scott speeds up and follows.

He turns into the alleyway, only to find it empty.

EXT. ROMBA - SPACEPORT ALLEY

Scott walks into the alley, looking around. There is no one around.

SCOTT

What the fuck?

He takes a few more steps.

MAN (O.S.)

Can we help you?

Scott turns around to find two big guys behind him.

SCOTT
I'm good, thanks.

MAN 3 (O.S.)
I don't think you are.

Scott turns back around to find 4 men standing behind him.

SCOTT
You don't want this.

MAN
I think we do.

Man 2, standing at man one's side, rushes forward at Scott, who steps back and grabs him and tosses him into the wall.

No sooner does he let go of Man 2 then Man 4 hits him in the back of the head. Scott stumbles forward, he elbows him and tries to regain his balance when Man 5 rams him, knocking him forward, right into the arms of Man, who tosses him against the wall and hits him. Man goes for a second hit when Scott knees him, knocking him backwards.

Man 5 and Man 6 rush at him. Scott dodges their attack and hits Man 5 right in the eye and knocks him to the ground. He kicks backward right as Man 2 starts after him, hitting him in the gut.

Man hits Scott in the back of the head, knocking him into a trash can. Man 2 and Man move to attack him when Scott picks up the lid of the trash can and swings it at Man 2, knocking him to the ground.

Scott gets to his feet, facing off against Man when Man 3 hits him in the back of his head, knocking him forward. He stumbles forward. Man 4 elbows him in the back, knocking him to the ground.

Man 6 runs up and kicks him in the gut knocking him over. All 6 of them start stomping on him.

JIM (O.S.)
I really can't believe it.

The six men pick Scott up so he can face Jim.

JIM (CONT'D)
When Flemings told me he was tipped off that you were following me, I never would have thought you were that stupid.

He gets right in Scott's face.

JIM (CONT'D)
Guess I was wrong.

EXT. ROMBA - MOTEL

Zack stands at the railing, overlooking the street below.

XANDER (O.S.)
Any sign of him?

He startles Zack as he walks up behind him.

ZACK
Don't do that!

XANDER
Sorry, you've been out here a while. Thought maybe Scott was back.

Zack shakes his head, glancing back out at the street.

ZACK
There's been no sign of him. I'm getting worried. What if Jim caught him?

XANDER
Scott's a badass, you know that better than anyone. He's fine. I promise you.

ZACK
What if he's not? If they have him, that means we're next.

XANDER
(nods)
Which means we should find out if Scott's okay.

INT. SHOOTING STAR -COCKPIT

The door slides open and a down and out David makes his way inside. He stops as he notices the blood stained on the floor.

FLASHBACK

The gun is knocked to the ground and goes off, killing Nikki.

BACK TO SCENE

A small smile crosses his lips as he stands there.

EXT. ROMBA - SPACEPORT - ROOFTOP

Zack and Xander stand on a rooftop watching as the city cops, led by Flemings march Scott to one of their cars.

ZACK
Fuck!

XANDER
Now what?

The cops push Scott into the back of the car.

ZACK
We have to help him!

Xander shakes his head.

XANDER
We can't! They'll just end up
catching us too.

Zack walks away from the edge.

ZACK
We should have gone with him. We
should have been there.

XANDER
For what? There was nothing we
could have done.

KARL KHAN (O.S.)
There was nothing they could have
done?

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - CAMPSITE

Phoebe sits in the hot seat, all eyes in the makeshift court room locked onto her.

Cold, hard, unforgiving eyes bore into her, all but for James, who tries to give her a reassuring smile.

KARL KHAN
Is that what you expect us to
believe?

Phoebe nodded, attempting to hold back tears.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)
Are they not members of the
League's invasion force?

Phoebe looks back at the cage, where Tommy and the others
look on.

PHOEBE
They are.

KARL KHAN
And was the League not responsible
for the attack on our world? For
the death of your friends and
family?

Phoebe, no longer able to stop herself, starts to cry.

PHOEBE
They are.

KARL KHAN
So, if they are the League, and the
League caused all of the death and
destruction on our world, aren't
they responsible?

PHOEBE
They tried to save me!

KARL KHAN
From who?

PHOEBE
You.

KARL KHAN
Me? Have we hurt you?

PHOEBE
No.

KARL KHAN
Have we done anything other than
help you?

She shakes her head no.

KARL KHAN (CONT'D)
So, why did you need saving from
us?

PHOEBE
I guess I didn't.

Karl nods.

KARL KHAN
I see, so let me ask you something.

She looks up.

PHOEBE
What?

KARL KHAN
Were they kind to you?

She glances back at the cage, before looking back at Karl.

PHOEBE
No.

POV. CAGE

Mark kicks the door and turns away.

MARK
Great! This is just great!

Dawn follows his lead.

DAWN
She just sealed our fate.

Tommy shakes his head as he turns to face them. Alyssa keeps watching the testimony.

TOMMY
Our fates were sealed before this trial even started.

Mark and Dawn turn to face Tommy.

DAWN
No shit.

MARK
Weren't you the one telling us to give them a chance?

Alyssa turns to face her friends.

TOMMY
And we did, they proved you right.

MARK
Glad you can admit that. Does us a lot of good now, doesn't it?

ALYSSA

Mark, stop!

DAWN

Why should he?

TOMMY

Because the sooner he stops having a temper tantrum, the sooner we can figure out a way out of here.

MARK

Finally, something we can agree on.

RETURN TO SCENE

Karl gives Phoebe a sad smile.

KARL KHAN

So. . .Let me just make sure I have this right. They captured you and your boyfriend, tied you to a tree and left you there for days. Is that right?

She bites her lip, not wanting to answer.

MIQDAAD

You will answer that question.

James leans forward to whisper to Ben Harvey.

JAMES

(whispers)
Do something!

BEN HARVEY

(whispers)
It's a fair question. Relax James, I'll have my turn next.

James sits back, pissed.

PHOEBE

They did.

KARL KHAN

I see, so. . .Phoebe, have you ever heard of Stockholm syndrome?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. PETER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Erica looks around the living room, only slightly more clean than when she started.

She nods to herself before turning to leave. Standing in the doorway is the disapproving Butler.

He takes a step towards Erica, before raising his hand and backhanding her across the face, knocking her to the ground.

BUTLER

All this time, and this is the best
you can do?

Erica looks up, the fire back in her eyes.

BUTLER (CONT'D)

Do you think this is a joke?

Erica moves to get up when Butler hits a device on his wrist.

ERICA

Ahhhh!!!!

She grabs the collar around her neck as she falls backwards, convoluting as if she is being shocked.

BUTLER

I expect this room to be clean when
I return!

With that he turns on his heel and marches out of the room.

The shocking stops and Erica stops screaming. Instead the screams turn to sobs as she tries to sit up. Her eyes bloodshot, with blood dripping down her nose. Slight burn-marks around her neck.

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - CAMPSITE

Karl takes a seat as Ben Harvey stands up.

He walks over to Phoebe, who is on the verge of a breakdown.

BEN HARVEY

Are you okay?

She nods, slowly.

BEN HARVEY (CONT'D)
I know this must be hard on you,
and for that I do apologize.

PHOEBE
Can I go?

He nods.

BEN HARVEY
Of course, I just have one
question.

PHOEBE
What?

BEN HARVEY
You stated that my clients are good
people, who just got caught up in
something outside of their control.
That. . .that's something everyone
can understand, but. . .if we are
to accept that you and James
(motions to James)
are suffering from Stockholm
syndrome, do you think you, either
of you, are a good source to judge
that by?

PHOEBE
What?

BEN HARVEY
It's not your fault, no one here
blames you sweetie. We just want to
help you.

PHOEBE
(gets to her feet)
I don't have Stockholm syndrome!

Ben smiles sadly.

BEN HARVEY
I have no further questions.

With that he heads back to his table.

Emma gets to her feet.

EMMA
Let's call it a day. We will pick
this up in the morning.

People start to get to their feet, but for Phoebe, who stays in her chair, in complete shock.

INT. ROMBA - MOTEL

Xander sits at the desk, radiating stress as Zack paces back and forth behind him.

XANDER
Will you sit down!

ZACK
What good will that do! They arrested Scott, it's only a matter of time before they bust down the door.

Xander gets to his feet, grabbing Zack by the shoulders.

XANDER
The more you yell, the faster that happens. Shut up and let me think!

ZACK
Why, because that's your strong suit?

Xander sits back down, running his hand through his hair.

XANDER
We need to find a way off this rock and fast.

Zack sits on the edge of the bed.

ZACK
And how do we do that? We have the feds on our ass and now we have the underworld after us as well.

XANDER
We just need to find someone about to leave. Join up with them.

ZACK
How do we do that?

XANDER
That's the million credit question, isn't it.

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - WOODS

James sits on a rock, with his arms wrapped around Phoebe, as the sun starts to go down.

JAMES

It's okay.

PHOEBE

It's not. They made us out to be sympathizers. They don't understand!

JAMES

They don't want to understand.

PHOEBE

Even Harvey, he just wants to pat himself on the back and say he gave them justice, say he was fair. It's all bullshit!

James nods.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

We need to do something!

JAMES

I know, we just need to think this through. Plan it all out. We can't rush this.

Phoebe nods.

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - CAMPSITE

The makeshift courtroom had emptied out.

Mark stands at the edge of the cage.

POV. INSIDE CAGE

Mark turns around to face Tommy.

MARK

We have to get out of here!

TOMMY

Tonight.

DAWN

So soon? You telling me you aren't eager to see what our "defense" comes up with? Cause I'm dying to find out.

ALYSSA

If he even comes up with anything. My guess is he just rests the second it's his turn.

MARK

That or double down on blaming us for everything.

TOMMY

Either way, we can't be here when that happens. We need to get out of here, and find a way off world ASAP.

DAWN

Any ideas?

They all just look at each other, none of them saying a word.

INT. PETER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Erica is on her hands and knees in the middle of the spotless living room, scrubbing away at the already clean floor.

The butler walks in, glances around the room and lets out a sigh of disappointment.

BUTLER

Such a disappointment, but I guess this will have to do for today. Retire back to your room, while I think of new ways to motivate you to do your work.

She nods as she jumps to her feet and rushes out of the room, not looking back. The butler shakes his head in disgust.

INT. PETER'S HOUSE - PETER'S OFFICE

Peter sits in front of the viewscreen, sweat pouring down his face. A man in a dark silhouette with a distorted voice speaks to him.

SILHOUETTE MAN

This is unacceptable Peter.

Peter looks down, in an attempt to compose himself.

PETER

I know,
 (he looks up, calm)
 But I can fix it. I promise you.

SILHOUETTE MAN

You had better! So help me, if this
 messes up

PETER

It won't! Believe me, I have just
 as much to lose as you if *our* plans
 go awry.

SILHOUETTE MAN

More. Because if you don't fix
 this, I'll have your head!

With that the transmission cuts off. Peter sits there,
 transfixed on the viewscreen.

ERICA (O.S.)

Ahhhhh!!!

Peter turns to look towards the door, which is ajar.

He jumps to his feet and rushes out into

INT. PETER'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Where he finds Erica on the ground, screaming as she pulls on
 her collar. The butler standing behind her. Peter looks up
 from her to lock eyes with the butler.

BUTLER

She was stopped here, listening.

Peter nods, looking down at her, withering on the floor in
 pain.

PETER

Did you hear anything?

ERICA

No! Please! Just let it stop!
 Please!

Peter nods, before turning back to his office.

PETER

Send her to her room.

BUTLER

Yes sir.

He shuts off the collar and Erica stops screaming.

Peter stops just before entering his office.

PETER

A few days without food, locked in
her room should teach her some
manners.

Erica looks up at him in disbelief.

INT. NEW JERUSALEM - JAMES AND PHOEBE'S TENT

James and Phoebe make their way into their tent, a look of
determination mixed with a hint of worry.

PHOEBE

(quiet and panicked)

There is so much that can go wrong.

James nods as he looks around the tent, food is still laid
out on the table, the rest of the tent looks untouched.

JAMES

But it's like you said, if we don't
help them, who will?

He picks up a bagel on the table and takes a bite. Phoebe
glances back at the entrance.

PHOEBE

What if they find out?

James looks back at her, bagel half in his mouth. He wipes it
away and walks towards her.

JAMES

It's going to be okay.

He grabs her.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Look at me.

Phoebe turns to look at him.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Everything is going to be okay. I
promise you.

PHOEBE
How do you know?

JAMES
Because.

She laughs lightly.

PHOEBE
That's not an answer.

JAMES
Fair, but it's all I got. We will
get through this.

BEN HARVEY (O.S.)
We all will.

James and Phoebe turn to see Ben Harvey at the entrance to their tent, smiling at them.

BEN HARVEY (CONT'D)
That is why we have all come
together here in this tiny village.
To band together and overcome
everything that has been thrown
against us. We will over come this.
I promise you.

James puts himself in front of Phoebe, attempting to hide the panic that is rushing through his mind, how much did Ben hear?

JAMES
We appreciate that. We do.

BEN HARVEY
I'm glad to hear that. I know this
trial has been hard on the two of
you. I can't imagine what it must
have been like to be taken by
those. . .those people, so soon
after the death of everyone you had
ever known. But not to worry, this
will all be over tomorrow. One way
or the other.

JAMES
That's good to know. Um, look, I'm
not trying to be rude. I just. .
.we just, we need some time. To be
alone and, well to deal with all
this. If you don't mind.

Ben smiles as he nods.

BEN HARVEY

Not at all. I completely understand. If the two of you need anything, don't hesitate to ask.

With that he turns and leaves.

PHOEBE

How much do you think he heard?

James shakes his head as he turns back towards her.

JAMES

I have no idea, but we no longer have time to plan. If we want to help them, it has to be tonight.

EXT. ROMBA - SPACEPORT

The spaceport is abuzz with people moving about, living their lives with not a care in the world. The crate door for the Shooting Star opens up. David steps outside. He takes it all in for a moment, taking a deep breath before forcing himself to start down the ramp.

ZACK (O.C.)

Who the hell are we going to find stupid enough to get us off this rock?

INT. ROMBA - MOTEL

Zack and Xander are facing off, both upset.

XANDER

That's your biggest concern? Getting off this rock? We just saw your boy getting carted off in the back of a cop car. Yet you don't seem bothered in the least by it.

ZACK

(yells)

Not bothered? Are you fucking kidding me? Captain Tortelli took me in when I had nothing. Him and Scott were the only family I ever had. Ever since. . .

(shakes his head)

I watched the League kill him.

(MORE)

ZACK (CONT'D)

Right in front of me. Would have killed me too, if not for Scott. Fuck! He got us, both of us, off that prison ship! And now, now they have him! And it's my fault. I did nothing, nothing! But stand by and watch it happen. So tell me, what the fuck am I supposed to do? How am I supposed to deal with this shit? You tell me right the fuck now!

Xander looks around the room, at both walls.

XANDER

Okay, let's lower our voices, just a bit. These here walls, yeah not the best. And the last thing we need right now is everyone knowing our business.

ZACK

If I thought, even for a second, that we could save him, don't you think I would?

Xander lets out a sigh as he puts his hand on his shoulder.

XANDER

You're right. I'm sorry. I mean, it's not like there is anything we can do. Unless we feel like taking on the whole police department. And even that is only if they haven't already called in the League.

ZACK

Why would they call in the League?

XANDER

We robbed a bank. Last I checked, that shit was federal.

ZACK

Fuck.

He sits on the bed. Wrath giving way to worry.

XANDER

Yeah, we're screwed.

He said as he sat next to Zack, the same kind of dread taking hold of him.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The makeshift courtroom is emptied out, with the exception of two guards, with large blasters, patrolling the area. And the cage with the four captives in it. Left in the cold, windy night with nothing to cover themselves with.

DAWN

Well, whatever we decide, we won't get very far with those two hanging around.

MARK

There hasn't been a moment where we haven't been guarded since we got here. They act like we are such a big threat to them.

ALYSSA

Wouldn't you? If some invader came to your home and did what we did?

Mark clenches his fists, as if he is about to hit her.

MARK

I am so tired of you siding with them! As if I wanted this! As if this was my big goal! I never wanted any of this!

Tommy puts himself in Mark's face.

TOMMY

(cold and calm)

No, you didn't. I dragged you here. The blame is mine, and mine alone. Don't for one second think I'm going to allow you to take your anger towards me out on anyone else. Do I make myself clear?

MARK

Crystal.

TOMMY

Good. Now lets figure this out.

MARK

What's the point? I'm right where I belong. You should have just left me in jail.

TOMMY

No, I shouldn't have. You're a good man Mark. You just needed a second chance. We all do sometimes.

MARK

Some second chance. I'm right back where I started. Only this time, this time I'm innocent. So yeah, great choice I made. Signing up with homicide maniacs in a veil attempt to make up for lifting a few hover-cars. Yeah, these scales don't balance, man.

Tommy is at a loss for words.

DAWN

This is sweet and all, really, it is, but we need to focus.

Alyssa turns to look at the guards.

ALYSSA

How do we get rid of them?

TOMMY

We need some kind of distraction.

MARK

Any ideas?

GUARD 1 (O.S.)

Hey! You can't be here!

They all turn to look at the guard yelling.

The guard is walking, gun leveled at a figure walking towards them in the darkness. The second guard starts towards them, leveling their gun as well.

ALYSSA

What's going on?

DAWN

No clue, but I think we just got our distraction.

PHOEBE (O.S.)

And we need to make the best of it, quickly.

Startled they turn to find Phoebe standing at the foot of the cage, keys in hand.

TOMMY
You here to help?

She nods.

Mark turns back towards the guards.

MARK
So I take it that's James over
there?

She nods.

POV. JAMES

He has his hands up, as both guards close in on around them.

JAMES
Let's all just take a deep breath,
no need for pointing blasters.

GUARD 1
What are you doing here? This place
is off limits.

JAMES
I didn't know. I just. . .I just
needed to get some air. I don't
know if you guys saw the trial
today, but I did not do well up
there. I just, I just wanted to
reflect on it. You know?

GUARD 1
Look kid, I get you been through a
lot, I sympathize. I do, but these
guys, they dangerous. You shouldn't
be anywhere near here. It's for
your own safety.

James nods.

JAMES
I get it, it's no problem. I'm
sorry I bothered you.

GUARD 1
Not at all. Everything is going to
work out. As long as we all stick
together.

GUARD 2
Just keep your head up kid.

James nods, as he turns away from them.

JAMES

Will do.

He starts back towards the tent.

GUARD 2

Poor kid.

GUARD 1

I can't imagine being alone all that time after the attack. It must have been so hard for them.

They turn back around to spot the cage empty.

GUARD 2

Does. . .does the cage look empty to you?

Guard 1 spins around, only to find that James is nowhere to be seen.

GUARD 1

Fuck! That kid played us! Alert the watch! Quickly!

Guard 2 nods and runs off.

Guard 1 runs over to the cage and looks for any sign of the escaped prisoners. He finds none.

EXT. NEW JERUSALEM - WOODS

Phoebe, Mark, Tommy, Alyssa and Dawn come to a stop in a small clearing.

PHOEBE

We have to stop!

DAWN

We don't have time! It won't take them long to come for us.

PHOEBE

I know, but we can't leave without James.

TOMMY

Why did you help us?

JAMES (O.S.)
 Because what they were doing was
 wrong.

They look back as James walks out of the clearing.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 That wasn't justice. That was
 vengeance.

Phoebe smiles and runs towards James.

PHOEBE
 James!

He hugs her.

TOMMY
 Thank you, I know that couldn't
 have been an easy choice for you to
 make.

JAMES
 It was the only choice to make, if
 I ever wanted to be able to look
 myself in the mirror again.

MARK
 So now what?

PHOEBE
 We have to get off world. Fast!

DAWN
 We?

JAMES
 Yeah we, we can't stay here!

TOMMY
 Fair enough.

MARK
 So what's the plan?

INT. ROMBA - BAR

The bar is full of shady looking people, who clearly don't want to be found. Near the back sits David in talks with a grim looking man with a smile that can only spell doom for anyone who sees it.

GRIM

So what's this job you crewing for?
Not a lot of people come here
looking for off-world crew.

David looks around.

DAVID

That is for me to know. My crew is
to follow orders, not ask
questions.

Grim nods, trying not to laugh.

GRIM

I see, so. . .
(stops himself)
What am I allowed to ask?

DAVID

If you are not going to take this
seriously, than I am wasting my
time. Good day.

David starts to get to his feet.

GRIM

Sit. I apologize.

An unhappy David sits.

DAVID

I do not appreciate having my time
wasted.

GRIM

No one does. Which is why I'm
confused as to why you are out here
looking for a crew all your own.
Why not go through Jim? He kind of
handles all this around these here
parts.

DAVID

I have no wish to associate with
that man.

GRIM

That's unfortunate, cause he's kind
of the top dog round here. And
well, he charges a fee for all
hires, whither it's through him or
not. Cost of doing business here,
I'm afraid.

DAVID

He already collected all he will
from me. Now, if you will excuse
me, I will take my business
elsewhere.

David gets back to his feet. Grim smiles.

GRIM

I'm afraid that's not an option.

With his words, a number of men get to their feet, all facing
David. He looks around, fear washing over him.

DAVID

I will not be threatened.

The men move closer to David.

GRIM

You won't?

David pulls out a blaster.

DAVID

(voice shaking)
Never again.

The men start to move for weapons of their own but Grim
motions for them to stop as he gets to his feet.

GRIM

So you do have a spine.

David's blaster hand starts to shake a bit, he forces it to
remain steady.

DAVID

I wish you no harm, but I will not
allow you to intimidate me.

Grim walks around the table, walking right into the blaster,
so that it is pressed against his chest.

GRIM

Whose trying to intimidate you?
I'll tell you what Mr. . . David?
I'll let you get back on your
little boat and fly off into the
great black, never to return. One
time offer.

He takes the blaster from David's hand. David falls back a
few steps in shock at the sudden movement.

GRIM (CONT'D)

Go, now.

David rushes for the door and exits the bar, not looking back. The bar erupts into laughter as Grim takes his seat.

GRIM (CONT'D)

Bring me a beer.

On the other side of the room two men in hoods look on, but don't join in the laughter. The faces hid under the hoods are that of Xander and Zack.

XANDER

That's our ticket off world.

ZACK

That loser? He's a joke.

XANDER

Exactly! We just saw first hand that he has no love for Jim, plus, he's looking for a crew to go off world. It's perfect!

ZACK

But he's a joke. Whatever job he takes us on is going to be a disaster.

XANDER

So? That's tomorrow's problem. Today's problem is getting off this rock before we end up in a cell next to Scott. If it's as big a clusterfuck as we think, we jumpship, somewhere where we aren't wanted by the authorities and gangsters alike.

ZACK

This is going to go sideways, you know that right?

Xander grins.

XANDER

It's us, of course it's going to go sideways. That's our thing.

Xander gets up. Zack sighs before following his lead.

ZACK

We don't have a thing.

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

INT. NEW JERUSALEM - MAIN TENT

Ben, Emma, Miqdaad and Alex stand around a large table, Guard 1 stands just off to the side, with other people scattered around the tent working on charts and in smaller conversations.

MIQDAAD

How could you just let them escape under your guard?

GUARD 1

I had no way of knowing the kid was distracting us. I honestly thought he was just trying to deal with everything. Just like the rest of us.

MIQDAAD

But he and his little girlfriend aren't like the rest of us. I've been saying it from the beginning. They had help.

EMMA

This again? You really believe someone helped the League destroy their own world? Kill their own people?

MIQDAAD

How else did they get past our defenses? Catch us so unaware?

ALEX

What defenses? Ever since the great purge hid us from the rest of the verse, we haven't built up much in the way of defenses. If anything, we've lessen our defenses. I mean, when's the last time anyone's been off world?

MIQDAAD

A fact you sound bitter about!

ALEX

And you're not? Our people, all of our people, are growing.

MIQDAAD

Were.

ALEX

Were growing, at an alarming rate. This planet isn't, wasn't, going to be able to contain us for much longer.

MIQDAAD

Not really a problem anymore, now is it?

ALEX

What are you trying to imply?

MIQDAAD

I'm not implying anything. I'm saying it, if anyone were to sell us out, it would be you lot.

Alex makes to strike Migdaad when Ben strikes the table.

BEN HARVEY

Enough! This is getting us nowhere.

MIQDAAD

Says the man whose people just helped them escape!

EMMA

Those children, did not help the League attack our world. Nor do I believe anyone else did. We were blindsided, simple as that.

MIQDAAD

You deny they helped them escape?

EMMA

What would be the point in denying a fact that we can all see, clear as day? No, I merely put forth the notion that the kids, are well kids. Scared, confused kids, who witnessed the destruction of everything they ever knew. And those four, as monstrous as they were to them, also represented hope, safety, the knowledge that they weren't the only people left in the world. Is that truly so hard to understand?

MIQDAAD

So you suggest we just let them go?

EMMA

Hardly, if they make it off world, the League will learn that there are survivors here. Which means they will be back to finish the job. Then it truly will be the end of our faiths.

BEN HARVEY

Unless you believe the stories about the ark.

EMMA

Don't start Ben. No one has time for your fairy tales.

ALEX

The Ark, now that's a story I haven't heard in a good long time.

MIQDAAD

Can we please get back to the topic at hand? The escaped prisoners.

BEN HARVEY

And the young misguided fools who freed them.

MIQDAAD

You mean the traitors. For no matter what their reasons, that is what they now are, traitors. That at least, is something we can all agree on, right?

EMMA

Right!

ALEX

What else would you call someone who takes all the hospitality we gave them and stab us in the back the way they did?

BEN HARVEY

It's agreed, whatever we may feel for those lost souls, they must be stopped.

EXT. ROMBA - SPACEPORT

A downtrodden David walks up the ramp to the Shooting Star. His head hung low. He makes it to the entrance where he finds a note.

He pulls the note off, it reads; Crew in need of a captain, meet us at Finn's Pub at noon, tomorrow.

David smiles.

THE END