

T H E  P I L L A R S  
"Paradise"

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"Paradise"

TEASER

FADE IN:

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - DAY**

SLOW PUSH IN on JULIAN.

At first blush, a scary, intimidating face. It's badly SCARRED on the right side, so much that most of his brown/grey hair has gone or is in small patches. On the other side, however, his skin and hair are perfect.

But there's something deeper in his eyes. Something emotional, that makes you look past the disfigurement and at the person himself.

He sits at his desk, stares straight ahead, the perfect side of his face resting in his palm. His eyes are distant and dull. He looks tired, worn-out. And you can tell by his expression that he knows of one thing.

A storm is coming.

He opens a drawer in his desk, bringing out a SMALL MATCHBOX and weighing it in his hands. He shakes it.

It RATTLES.

**EXT. DEEP JUNGLE - DAY**

CLOSE ON FEET trudging through the wet muddy ground of the jungle. Lush green foliage surrounds the two slow-moving FIGURES. Rain hammering down.

REVEAL someone holding a RIFLE at their side. It's ENZO. The rain mixing with his sweat. He breathes heavily. CORBIN TRAVAIL walks next to him, a determined gaze in his eyes.

Enzo looks up to the sky. The rain is letting up.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CEMETARY, PORTSOUND - DAY**

The rain POURS down here. TRACK across the crowd, seeing many unfamiliar faces. They're gathered in a circle. All wearing muted colors and carrying large umbrellas.

In the middle of the circle is a STONE TABLE. Lying on top is the lifeless body of the HARBINGER, dressed in elegant flowing clothes. Her deep blue eyes are now dulled. The clothes wrap tightly around her beautiful body.

A PRIESTESS stands at the head of the table. Reading from a book which is quickly getting soaked.

PRIESTESS

She was a kind woman. A thoughtful woman. Her untimely death comes as a shock to us all, and a stark reminder of our own mortality.

Faces from the crowd nod.

CUT TO:

**EXT. DEEP JUNGLE - DAY**

Corbin and Enzo continue marching through the thick foliage.

Corbin stumbles across a TREE TRUNK, his eyes rolling to the back of his head. He's suddenly crashing to the floor. Enzo rushes to his side, Corbin has a large cut on his right arm.

ENZO

Hey, Corbin!

Corbin's eyes FLUTTER. He STUMBLES trying to stand.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CLIFF, PORTSOUND - DAY**

*Corbin stands at the very edge of a cliff. He looks down, seeing a huge drop. The angry waves at the very bottom are barely visible.*

WOMAN (O.S.)

*Breathtaking, isn't it?*

*Corbin swivels around, seeing a SILHOUETTED FIGURE standing close by. She approaches, her face still in thick shadow.*

CORBIN

*Jennifer?*

JENNIFER

*We used to come up here all the time, remember? Picnics. Walks. Talking, just to clear your head.*

CORBIN

*It was my favorite place...*

JENNIFER

Mine too.

Corbin hesitates, looking into the darkness of her face. Jennifer takes a couple more steps forward, her face still shrouded in darkness, despite the harsh SUN beating down.

CORBIN

I can't see you anymore. My memories are fading. So fast.

JENNIFER

Beauty is only skin deep, my love.

She CARESSES Corbin's face.

JENNIFER

This is something different...

CORBIN

(realizing)

These are not my memories. Truths, mixed with falsehoods.

Jennifer nods her head, moving around Corbin. He follows.

JENNIFER

You've been here many times, but only once without me. Do you remember that time you came here?

Corbin looks down to the ground, an ashamed look in his eyes.

CORBIN

Yes.

JENNIFER

You're getting closer. It's all nearing the end of the beginning.

CORBIN

Getting closer to what?

JENNIFER

Merrick.

She PUSHES Corbin sharply. He stumbles, a look of terror filling his eyes before he drops off the edge of the cliff.

Jennifer looks over. She smiles and waves as Corbin falls, plummeting towards the ROCKS below.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CEMETARY, PORTSOUND - DAY**

LONG SHOT of the circle around the Harbinger. People start to move off, more and more following. The crowd starts to dwindle. The Priestess bows her head, then moves away.

There's one person left standing before the body. They remove their hood, revealing SYBIL. The rain mixes with her tears.

SYBIL  
(whispering)  
I'm so sorry.

She leans over and kisses the Harbinger tenderly on the lips. After a long final look, Sybil puts her hood up and walks away. As she turns there's a FLASH of LIGHTNING, illuminating the Harbinger's body for a brief moment.

CUT TO:

**EXT. DEEP JUNGLE - DAY**

Thunder rumbles in the distance, but the rain's stopped now. Corbin JOLTS up. He's disorientated for a second. Enzo grins.

He hears a rustling in bushes nearby and pivots around, pointing his rifle at the movement, but it's vanished.

He frowns, looking around the forest surrounding him as he lowers the rifle but keeps his hand on the grip.

ENZO  
This place looks familiar.

Corbin struggles to his feet.

CORBIN  
It's a jungle in the rain. It all looks familiar.

ENZO  
You're sure we're not just going around in circles again?

CORBIN  
What do you mean 'again'?

ENZO  
We've been walking around this jungle for three days. How do you know where you're going?

Corbin sighs, and starts walking again. Enzo follows after brief hesitation. He looks nervous and lost.

CORBIN

We just need to find it.

ENZO

The Pillar? You realize we can  
*still* be destroyed?

CORBIN

We're already dead, Enzo.

ENZO

And yet people are still chasing  
us. If we don't find the Pillar  
fast we could be captured. We both  
know what happens after that.

Corbin nods softly. He moves over to a large LOG, sitting  
down. Enzo stays standing.

CORBIN

You should sit.

Enzo considers for a moment. He nods, sitting down beside  
Corbin. He wipes the sweat from his face and sets his rifle  
against the log.

ENZO

I'm sorry.

CORBIN

You don't have to apologize.

Enzo looks around the jungle. He looks back at Corbin.

ENZO

Do you think we need an orb from  
this world to activate the Pillar?

CORBIN

I don't know. It's possible...

(beat)

You seem nervous.

ENZO

It's just... I don't know this  
place. Back in the Wastes, I'd been  
there for I don't know how long. I  
knew what was around every corner.  
Here, I'm blind.

CORBIN

Then open your eyes.

Both the men look at each other with unsure expressions. Corbin stands, continues to walk. Enzo watches for a moment before following.

FADE TO:

**EXT. OUTER JUNGLE - LATER**

Corbin and Enzo continue to trek through the jungle. This area is not as dense as the deep jungle, but trees and foliage remain visible in every direction.

The two men are more tired than ever. Corbin stops cold.

ENZO  
What's wrong?

CORBIN  
Do you hear something?

Enzo listens, but hears nothing.

ENZO  
No. Why? What was it?

Corbin shakes his head and continues walking. Enzo follows, but stops when Corbin once again freezes in his path.

CORBIN  
Do you hear that? Voices. People.

Corbin rushes forward. He squints, looking into the distance. He looks back to a confused Enzo, a smile on his face.

CORBIN  
I think we've stopped going in circles.

Enzo looks forward. Further ahead is a SMALL CAMP, a MILITARY camp. People moving around, carrying out the motions of some kind of exercise. Enzo smirks and begins to venture forwards.

Enzo pushes a branch out of the way and his smirk drops. A group of SOLDIERS dressed in red and gold uniforms carrying guns and spears raise their weapons.

They look the pair up and down. Enzo points his rifle at the Soldiers. But they're SURROUNDED.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

**EXT. OUTER JUNGLE - DAY**

Corbin and Enzo look around at the surrounding enemies. The Soldiers still hold their weapons trained at the intruders.

The Soldiers begin to form a perimeter. Corbin and Enzo eye their attackers. Neither side wanting to be the first to fire. Two Soldiers approach. Enzo takes aim, ready to fire. The FIRST SOLDIER eyes them up. His name is VASCO.

VASCO

Who are you? What are you doing out here?

ENZO

What are you doing out here.

Corbin shoots him a look. He holds out his arms, trying to calm everything down.

CORBIN

Just put the gun down, Enzo.

VASCO

Who are you?

ENZO

(to Corbin)

Put it down? I put it down, they shoot us!

CORBIN

No one wants to shoot anyone. You pointing that gun around isn't helping. Just lower it.

(beat)

Trust me.

Enzo grits his teeth, not wanting to follow through with the advice. His finger tightens on the trigger.

SOLDIER 2

Tell us now! Who are you?

Corbin pushes Enzo's gun down so it's pointed at the floor. Enzo looks at Corbin, almost with a betrayed look in his eyes. He drops the gun to the ground.

CORBIN

My name is Corbin Travail, and this  
is my friend Enzo. We're just  
passing through.

SOLDIER 2

*'Passing through?'*

The circle of Soldiers grip their rifles tightly, taking aim. Corbin has to do something, and fast. His eyes dart from soldier to soldier, trying to think of a way out of this.

CORBIN

We came here through The Pillar.

Vasco frowns. He begins to lower his weapon, but this doesn't mean anything to the Second Soldier. He squeezes the trigger of his rifle.

BANG!

The Second Soldier drops to the ground, a bullet wound to the head. Vasco holsters his pistol and looks to Corbin and Enzo.

VASCO

The Pillar? The Pillar is a myth.

CORBIN

Trust me, it's not.

Enzo gives Corbin a worried look, he's giving too much information for his comfort.

Vasco motions for his men to lower their weapons. They do so, hesitantly.

CORBIN

I've told you what you wanted to  
know, who are you? Where are we?

VASCO

That is irrelevant.

ENZO

I think it's *very* relevant!

Corbin holds up his hand to try and calm Enzo down.

CORBIN

Then what *is* relevant?

VASCO

That you came through the Pillar.  
I've heard the myths and legends,  
but never knew it really existed,  
or could be used by people still if  
it were real. Certainly not by  
plebeians.

He motions for one of his men to come closer. The MAN hands  
the Soldier a pair of HANDCUFFS.

ENZO

I'm not putting those on.

VASCO

As you wish, but you're coming with  
us. If you try and run, you're  
wearing them. No arguments.

One of the other Soldiers picks up Enzo's dropped rifle.  
Vasco grins.

CUT TO:

**EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING - LATER**

The clearing a beautiful panoramic view of the thick jungle  
that surrounds it. Towering mountains can be seen in the  
distance.

The Soldiers march with Corbin and Enzo. Vasco leads the way.

CORBIN

Where are we going exactly?

VASCO

I know *someone* will be very  
interested in hearing your story.

CORBIN

Because we came through the Pillar?

VASCO

I see no other reason you could be  
of any interest to anyone.

Enzo walks next to Corbin. He mutters to him.

ENZO

I thought we had to stick together.

CORBIN

What are you talking about?

ENZO

Back there, you were on *their* side.  
You told me to drop the gun. We  
were defenseless.

CORBIN

I am on *our* side.

ENZO

We need to have each other's backs  
in this if we're gonna survive.

CORBIN

We do.

Enzo just nods, unconvinced. They both look to the front, and see a TRANSPORT sitting up ahead. It's an incredibly large ship made entirely of glass.

Vasco steps aside and the other Soldiers begin to board. Corbin and Enzo are ushered in behind, but stop themselves at the door.

ENZO

(to Vasco)

Where is this taking us?

He gets no answer. They're both jabbed by a gun from behind and pushed onto the Transport. Vasco follows. As soon as everyone is in the ship, the engines FIRE UP and the Transport rises into the blue sky, speeding off.

CUT TO:

**EXT. COUNCIL HALL - DAY**

Establishing shot of the magnificent hall, with various people walking up the steps to enter.

ADAM (PRE-LAP)

It was a possibility that should  
have been prevented, but it's  
happened now.

**INT. MAIN CHAMBER, COUNCIL HALL - DAY**

ADAM PENGLOSS stands on the podium. It ROTATES slowly, giving Adam a good view of the surrounding COUNCILMEN.

ADAM

Nothing can change that.

COUNCILMAN

But the fact remains that the even should have been avoided. How did you fail to stop them?

A burly COUNCILWOMAN speaks up.

COUNCILWOMAN

That is all in the past. Surely we are not in the business of crying over split Amrita?

(to Adam)

Is the Pillar now locked?

ADAM

Do you take me for a fool?

COUNCILWOMAN

I believe you should answer the question, then we shall decide on who is the most foolish.

ADAM

The Pillar is locked. I have a rotation of guards. If either of them try to come back through, they will be apprehended.

COUNCILMAN

But if the Pillar has been locked, how could they return?

ADAM

The locking mechanism has more than one setting, it can allow others to come through but not allow them out.

COUNCILMAN

So it is possible we've been visited by others since the war?

ADAM

Possible? Yes, it wasn't locked for the past thirty years.

The Councilmen nod.

ADAM

I hope that all of you can trust me. This attempt to capture the Runner has failed, but another attempt can and will end only with success.

COUNCILWOMAN  
We must make sure of it.

**EXT. TEMPLE OF THE SEVEN - DAY**

An establishing shot of the Temple.

**EXT. COURTYARD, TEMPLE OF THE SEVEN - DAY**

SARAH walks serenely through the Courtyard. She moves past the FOUNTAIN, singing a song to herself.

SARAH  
*... Wardens dread to see us dream;  
We hold tight to legends of real  
life, the way it was before.*

She SITS on the edge of the fountain, dipping her toes into the crisp clear water.

**INT. INNER SANCTUM, TEMPLE OF THE SEVEN**

THE SEVEN sit in their chairs. Their hoods covering their faces. AGON is standing in front of them, watching them oddly. Sarah approaches him from behind.

SARAH  
What do you want, Agon?

AGON  
Do I need a reason to visit our  
good *friends*?

Sarah shifts uncomfortably, she notices as a slight ripple moves through the other six.

AGON  
I just wanted to make sure that  
everything is still going to plan.

A DEEP THROATY LAUGH comes from one of the hoods.

HUMILITY  
How can we tell in these times?  
(beat)  
We are killing again, if that's  
what you're really wondering.

AGON  
So has anything changed?

Agon SITS in the stone chair, surveying the SIX hooded figures. Sarah uneasily stands next to him.

COURAGE

We can dance around this issue all that we desire, but the fact remains that things seem to be going according to plan.

AGON

(nods)

That's all I wanted to know.

JUSTICE

But there are things we wish to hear as well, Agon.

AGON

Such as?

COURAGE

The Runner.

Agon shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

AGON

It's being dealt with. Of that, I can assure you.

REASON

We don't need assurances, Agon. We need to know specifics.

AGON

I'm sorry. Such as?

HUMILITY

We don't need apologies, either. We want information.

COURAGE

No. We *need* information.

Agon looks from hooded figure to hooded figure.

AGON

All I can say is that it is being taken care of.

(darkly)

Besides, I thought you were supposed to know more about us than we know about ourselves.

SARAH

It doesn't matter, Agon.

Agon stands and nods. He leaves the room.

REASON

Something about that man makes me nervous.

JUSTICE

He has no thoughts about anyone but himself. He cannot continue to take when he does not give.

Sarah looks over to Justice.

SARAH

You're correct. And we'll sort it out. But right now our thoughts have to be on *ourselves*.

FAITH

You mean researching our past?

SARAH

They haven't given us much, but the access to the archives we've been granted could continue to prove useful.

Justice nods slowly and methodically.

JUSTICE

It's why we helped them in the first place.

FAITH

We may finally be able to find our place in the universe.

HUMILITY

Our history.

COURAGE

Our meaning.

SARAH

Yes. There's still much to figure out. We can still declare today, but I want you to go to the archives, Courage. The rest of us will preform our 'duty.'

Courage nods. The SIX all stand as one, their heads bowed. They file out of the room, leaving Sarah on her own.

SARAH  
(to herself)  
It's time we got some answers for  
ourselves.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SKIES, SPARTA - DAY**

The TRANSPORT whizzes through the sky.

**INT. TRANSPORT - DAY**

Corbin and Enzo sit next to each other. Some Soldiers pace around, while others stand guard. Corbin looks down, through the glass floor, watching them fly over the jungle.

CORBIN  
This reminds me of a boat I used to  
go in with my grandfather. It had a  
glass bottom. You could look down  
and see everything.  
(beat)  
Of course, I was too busy puking my  
guts up to notice. Sea-sickness.

Corbin looks up at Enzo, who isn't interested in the Transport. He eyes up the guns held by the Soldiers.

Then, everyone in the Transport is JOLTED around. They all hang onto the sides.

VASCO  
Just a bit of turbulence.

Corbin exchanges a look with Enzo, before they both look out the side. Both are shocked by the sight. Appearing after the miles of jungle is a MASSIVE, SPRAWLING CITY. A wall surrounds it, barricading it from the trees.

CORBIN  
What is this place?

VASCO  
This is one of ten city states.  
It's our city. Sparta.

CORBIN  
... It's beautiful.

The Soldier looks to Corbin, complete conviction in his eyes.

VASCO  
It's paradise.

The Transport GLIDES down smoothly, getting closer to the great city of Sparta. It SHUDDERS.

**EXT. LANDING PLATFORM, SPARTA - DAY**

START on the view of the city of Sparta. Cars whizz around in the air, skyscrapers tower above. The reflected sunlight from the windows blinding.

Plants and vines are everywhere, allowed to climb up the skyscrapers and across the roads, giving the impression the jungle is trying to reclaim its land.

CRANE DOWN to an ELDERLY MAN with a wooden WALKING CANE who watches the Transport as it touches down on the platform. WORKERS rush up to secure it down and check all the safety. A smile creases onto the man's face. This is EKKLESIA BORON.

The door of the Transport opens. Corbin and Enzo exit, surrounded by the Soldiers. Boron hobbles over to them.

BORON

I am very glad that you got here safely. And quickly, I might add.

Boron extends his hand to Corbin. They shake.

BORON

My name is Ekklesia Boron. I am leader of the Archonoi.

He then extends his hand to Enzo, who doesn't shake. Anger flashes across Boron's face, but he covers it well with a kindly smile.

ENZO

The Archonoi?

BORON

All will be explained later, my son. And what are your names?

CORBIN

I'm Corbin Travail, and this is Enzo, my companion.

BORON

I see. I'm sure you appreciate that since you're not citizens of Sparta there are a few technicalities to address.

**ANGLE: CORBIN'S EYES**

Boron's voice begins to FADE AWAY as he talks. Corbin notices a beautiful YOUNG WOMAN walking around. She stands out from all the other PEDESTRIANS. Their eyes meet. Suddenly, Boron's voice returns.

**RESUME SCENE**

BORON

It shouldn't take too long.

Corbin nods. His eyes return to where the Woman was, but she's VANISHED. Boron walks towards to Soldiers, greeting them. Corbin turns to Enzo.

CORBIN

Did you see her?

ENZO

Who?

Corbin doesn't answer. He just looks back to that same spot. The Woman's gone.

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAYS, CAPITOL - DAY**

Corbin and Enzo are escorted by Boron and two Soldiers. They walk through the elegant hallways, past offices and people.

Enzo looks around the lush hallway, decorated with paintings and tapestries, showing historical events of Sparta.

BORON

(to Enzo)

Sparta is the oldest city scape of Eden, with a very illustrious history.

ENZO

I'm sure.

BORON

Did you know you would arrive in our world when you used The Pillar?

ENZO

We didn't know what was gonna happen.

BORON

So you did come from another world?

Enzo doesn't answer.

The group walk past a room, which has it's door open. Corbin looks as they pass. The Young Woman is sitting at a desk, filing papers.

CORBIN

It's her...

But before he can take a closer look, they've past the room, and the woman is out of sight.

A YOUNG MAN bumps into Enzo, who's knocked back. The Young Man grabs Enzo's arm with lightning-fast speed, stopping him from falling over.

YOUNG MAN

I'm very sorry.

The Young Man nods and walks swiftly away. Enzo just watches, something bothering him. Boron looks uneasily at one of the Soldiers.

BORON

(to Enzo)

Come on, we can't keep him waiting.

CORBIN

And who is this, exactly?

The group moves off. One of the Soldiers has to grab onto Enzo's arm and pull him away.

**INT. OUTER OFFICE, CAPITOL - DAY**

A window fills up one of the walls, giving a full view of the city of Sparta. A large wooden door remains shut. There's a secretary's desk, but no-one sits there.

Boron, Corbin and Enzo enter the room through a small metal door, along with the accompanying Soldiers. Boron looks at the empty desk and sighs.

BORON

Where is that blasted woman?

(to Corbin)

Wait here. I'll be a moment.

Boron approaches the large door. He enters.

ENZO

What do you think is going to happen to us?

CORBIN

Nothing. They don't seem like the violent type.

ENZO

No. They just kidnapped us at  
gunpoint. Very peacekeeping.

Corbin cracks a bit of a smile as the door opens and Boron  
comes back into the room.

BORON

He will see you now.

Corbin and Enzo exchange a quick look before being given a  
little push by the barrel of the guns. Boron looks to the  
soldiers and nods.

BORON

Thank you, gentlemen.

There's a *click* of boots as they go to attention and salute,  
then turn and leave the three of them alone. Boron motions  
towards the door.

BORON

Shall we?

Corbin moves forward first, Enzo reluctantly follows.

CUT TO:

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - DAY**

The walls, ceiling and floor of the office are made of glass,  
allowing a view of the entire city. A large redwood DESK sits  
in the middle of the room. Behind the desk is a matching  
chair.

Corbin and Enzo step forward. There's a DARKENED FIGURE  
standing by the window, looking over the city. He is JULIAN.

JULIAN

I am glad to have made your  
acquaintance.

ENZO

Who are you?

JULIAN

Why do the all my visitors ask the  
wrong questions first?

Julian turns, allowing the two of them to see his face. One  
side badly scarred, the other flawless.

He smiles. His teeth are perfect and white.

JULIAN  
(very polite)  
I am the Grand Archon. Julian.  
Please, have a seat.

Boron exits the room, shutting the door as he goes. Corbin and Enzo nervously sit before Julian.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

**INT. ARCHIVES, COUNCIL HALL - DAY**

Courage is moving through the ARCHIVES. He looks from bookshelf to bookshelf, searching for something. His face is hidden, but its obvious his eyes are scanning the book spines.

He FLOATS up to get a better look at the books on the higher shelves.

He stops at one bookshelf and reads the spines of each of the books carefully. Finally, he grabs one of them.

Courage lowers back down to the floor and looks at the front cover of the BOOK, then quickly exits the Archives.

**INT. SETH'S CHAMBER - DAY**

SETH is looking into a hand-held flip mirror, obsessively combing his hair back. Adam stands in front of him.

ADAM

We can't have anything like that happening again, Seth. I know your anger builds up, but you have to control it.

SETH

I will. It was a mistake. But I don't appreciate being patronized like a child.

Adam pulls up a chair and sits. Seth continues combing.

ADAM

Do you want revenge?

SETH

(chuckles)  
Isn't that what you'd want?

ADAM

Yes. Which means the information I have would make you very happy.

Seth instantly pauses his combing, looking Adam directly in the eye.

SETH

You know where they are?

ADAM

(nods)

We know what world they're on. It seems the Runners have made it to Eden. A world they can hide on for a long time if we lose their trail. There are ten city states. The largest --

SETH

The city surrounded by the large wall. I know of it. Sparta. It's paradise.

ADAM

It's vast. It could take weeks to find them in there.

SETH

I will find them.

Seth returns to his compulsive combing. Adam stands, walking towards the door.

ADAM

Transportation to The Pillar is waiting, Seth. Do not fail me.

Adam leaves the room. A grin spreads across Seth's face. He snaps the mirror shut.

CUT TO:

**EXT. TEMPLE OF THE PILLAR - DAY**

TRACK with Seth as he walks confidently towards the entrance of the temple. His hair slicked back.

**INT. PILLAR CHAMBER, TEMPLE OF THE PILLAR**

Seth walks into the MASSIVE CHAMBER, approaching the huge PILLAR in the center of the room. His ORANGE eyes glisten with single-mindedness.

CUT TO:

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - DAY**

Corbin and Enzo are seated in front of Julian's desk. Boron sits at the back of the room, a silent observer of the conversation. He studies Corbin and Enzo, making notes on a pad of paper.

Julian paces behind his desk, occasionally looking out over the city through the wall-to-ceiling glass.

JULIAN

Ghosts are an interesting subject  
in Sparta.

ENZO

Ghosts? As in "Boo"?

JULIAN

Hardly, my friend. Ghosts walk the  
streets of Sparta. You see, they  
are people such as yourself, but  
they're also special. They're  
visible, but are granted the power  
by the administration to do  
whatever they want.

BORON

(speaking up)

Within reason.

JULIAN

Within reason, of course.

Boron nods, then returns to making his notes.

JULIAN

They act as a balancing mechanism  
in Spartan society. Think of them  
as spies, hiding in plain sight.

CORBIN

Why do you need spies, on top of a  
regular policing force?

Julian sighs, looking out of the window again. He grimaces,  
then turns back to the pair sitting in front of him. He  
points out the window to an area of Sparta.

JULIAN

Do you see that section of the  
city?

Corbin and Enzo have to stand to see it properly. In the  
distance, there's an area of tall office buildings which have  
been abandoned a long time ago. Even the plant-life has  
evacuated.

In the middle of all of them stands an even taller  
skyscraper, glistening and occupied.

JULIAN

That area is the only part of  
Sparta where travel is not  
recommended. Informally, it's known  
as the "Dark Sector".

(MORE)

JULIAN (CONT'D)

It's where the freedom fighters are. Those who don't agree with the way we run Sparta join the faction who call themselves "Runners".

Corbin and Enzo both peak at the mention of the word. Boron notices this and scribbles something onto his pad.

JULIAN

But they won't be around for long.

Julian looks to Boron, they stare daggers at each other.

JULIAN

We're cleaning up.

ENZO

What don't they agree with?

JULIAN

Everything, it seems. But now I'm sure you understand why we need spies. Terrorism and attacks fell drastically after we introduced the Ghost Initiative, some twenty years ago.

BORON

But we are kept from cleaning them out effectively.

CORBIN

Why?

Julian and Boron again stare each other down. It's not quite clear who is in charge exactly.

BORON

(coldly)  
Politics...

Julian becomes distant, looking out over the city again. Boron stands, stepping forward until he's behind Corbin and Enzo. He clears his throat. They turn to face him.

BORON

Now we've given you information on our city, it's time for you to tell us about The Pillar.

CORBIN

We don't really know much.

BORON

And yet, you've used it.

CORBIN

Yeah, we used it. You've used that transport we came in on, doesn't mean you know how they work.

Boron leans forward, looking Corbin right in the eyes.

BORON

You're lying.

CORBIN

I'm not.

BORON

And the lies continue. Either you tell me what you know, or I throw you out of Sparta.

CORBIN

You have no authority to do that!

BORON

Try me. I own this city, Mr. Travail. I have all the authority I need.

Corbin looks to Enzo, who doesn't know what to say. Boron begins to ask more questions but the sound FADES as Corbin stares ahead blankly.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CLIFF, PORTSOUND - DAWN**

*Corbin's standing on the edge of the cliff again. The sun rises in front of him. The sheer scale of the beauty is hard to comprehend.*

CORBIN

*It is breathtaking.*

*A HAND wraps around Corbin's waist. It dips into the front of his trousers. Corbin grabs the hand, gently removing it.*

*He turns. Jennifer is standing next to him. Despite the ample light, her face is still shrouded in darkness. All that's visible is the outline of her figure.*

JENNIFER

*Have you decided yet?*

CORBIN

*Decided what?*

JENNIFER

*Whether I'm beautiful.*

*Corbin touches her waist, looking longingly at where Jennifer's eyes should be.*

CORBIN

*You're more beautiful than ever.*

*He caresses her face, or where her face should be.*

CORBIN

*I've been thinking. Thinking about why I came here all those years ago.*

JENNIFER

*Shhh. Don't trouble your mind with those worries now, love. Remember, you have to move forward. Sparta is the first step...*

CORBIN

*Sparta? The first step to what?*

JENNIFER

*To everything. To your journey. To the future.*

CORBIN

*How? What do I need to do?*

JENNIFER

*Corbin... you do whatever feels right. Just don't trust him.*

*Her voice suddenly drops a couple of octaves, making it low and booming.*

JENNIFER

*Don't. Trust. Him.*

*She grabs Corbin's hand and pushes it away from her. She then wraps her hands around his temples and starts massaging them forcefully.*

CORBIN

*Jennifer. What are you doing?*

*She gets more and more furious, suddenly SNAPPING Corbin's neck. SLOW MOTION as he falls through the air, limp.*

*Jennifer smiles and waves as he HITS the ground.*

CUT TO:

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - CONTINUOUS**

Boron's voice FADES back in and Corbin looks him in the eye.

CORBIN

I--We, don't know anything.

ENZO

And an interrogation isn't going to make us want to tell you anything, anyway.

Boron looks menacingly at both of them.

JULIAN (O.S.)

That's enough!

Boron is jolted out of his stare. He looks Julian with hatred.

JULIAN

You men must be tired, I'll arrange for quarters for you.

Julian looks back at Boron, something unsaid passes between them and Boron turns and leaves. Enzo and Corbin watch him leave and then look back at each other.

JULIAN

Forgive him. He's become... zealous, with age.

An AIDE enters from the door and Julian waves her forward.

JULIAN

She'll escort you to a transport which will take you to your quarters.

(beat)

Please enjoy yourselves, gentlemen. You are our *guests*.

Corbin stands and nods. Enzo is uneasy by all of this and stands slowly. The two follow the aide out the door as Julian watches them, his hands steeped in front of his face.

CUT TO:

**INT. OUTER OFFICE, CAPITOL - CONTINUOUS**

The doors close behind Corbin and Enzo, the aide is a few steps ahead. Enzo comes up beside Corbin and leans in. The two WHISPER to each other.

ENZO

What the *hell* was all that in there?

Corbin looks at him out of the corner of his eye.

CORBIN

Which part?

ENZO

Julian and Boron.

Corbin shrugs.

CORBIN

I've always tried to stay out of politics.

Enzo smiles as they step out of the OUTER OFFICE.

CUT TO:

**EXT. LANDING PLATFORM, CAPITOL - SPARTA - DAY**

The three exit the Capitol building and make their way across the walkway to the tarmac where a small air-car waits for them. Corbin again NOTICES the Young Woman standing by the supply crates on the platform. She is watching him.

Corbin slaps Enzo's arm to get his attention but she's already gone.

They get to the car.

AIDE

This will take you to the penthouse.

CORBIN

Penthouse?

The aide doesn't say a word, she just walks between them, leaving them with the open door to the car.

CUT TO:

**INT. CAR, AIR - DUSK**

The car is zipping through the sky scrapers. Enzo and Corbin are taking in the sights with awe. The car begins to slow and circles around one large, elegant, building.

ENZO

You're kidding...

The car settles on the roof where several men and woman have gathered to greet them.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM, PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - DUSK**

The door OPENS and Corbin and Enzo step in.

AIDE

You gentlemen make yourself comfortable.

The air closes the door behind them as the two are stuck in place from awe. It has been too long since they've experienced any creature comforts.

The apartment is huge. One wall is completely made of glass, giving a view of the city with its skyscrapers and greenery. A flying car zooms past.

In the middle of the apartment is a large DEN with large sofas and chairs, all fat and comfortable. To the right is a small dining area with an ornate table and four chairs.

Just adjacent to that, is a kitchen, complete with automatic appliances making food and drink. A FRIDGE hums a song softly to itself.

On either side of the living are two doors that lead into the bedrooms.

CORBIN

Wow...

ENZO

Yeah...

They make their way to one of the bedrooms.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM, PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - DUSK**

The bedroom is HUGE as well. There's a KING BED, complete with plush pillows and embroidered duvet. A large WARDROBE takes up a good portion of the wall next to the glass window. They take a few steps in.

Enzo notices a bathroom off to the side.

ENZO

A shower...

Corbin smiles as he notices his friends sense of longing for a hot shower and relaxation.

CORBIN

They did say to make ourselves comfortable.

Enzo turns to him with a grin.

ENZO

I'll be back in a while.

Enzo leaves the room and Corbin falls onto the bed, it almost seems to wrap him up.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM, CORBIN'S HOUSE - DAY**

*Corbin lies in bed, Jennifer's darkened form next to him. He smiles at her.*

CORBIN

*I wish this didn't hurt so much.*

JENNIFER

*I warned you, Corbin. But never fight the pain. Absorb it into your body.*

CORBIN

*Why?*

JENNIFER

*Pain is the ultimate teacher, love.*

*Corbin closes his eyes.*

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM, PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - NIGHT - LATER**

Corbin is at the window, his eyes glistening in the dancing light of the city outside the glass wall. PULL BACK to reveal him there with nothing on but a towel around his waist.

Enzo steps in, fully dressed in FRESH clothes. He wears a thin button up shirt and sports coat with black slacks. He looks at Corbin.

ENZO

I bet there are clothes of your size in the wardrobe.

Corbin snaps out of it and looks back at Enzo.

CORBIN  
Yeah, I know...  
(turning back)  
It's just...

Enzo steps into the room.

ENZO  
It's incredible.

CORBIN  
So you're getting more comfortable  
now? With being somewhere  
unfamiliar, I mean?

ENZO  
... Yeah, I guess.

CORBIN  
Look, Enzo, I'm sorry about  
earlier. I didn't mean to order you  
around...  
(beat)  
We were in a tough position.  
Someone had to make the call.

ENZO  
No, you were right. I was hot-  
headed, and... if you hadn't been  
there I probably could've died.  
Again. I should be thanking you,  
not angry with you.

Corbin holds out his hand to Enzo.

CORBIN  
Truce?

Enzo grasps the hand tightly, looking straight into the eyes  
of his friend.

ENZO  
Truce.

CORBIN  
Now, are we gonna get out and  
explore this city, or what?

They break the handshake, Corbin looking out of the window.

ENZO  
Explore?

CORBIN

Why not? Especially if we don't need sleep. Or are you too scared about what's around the corner?

Corbin smirks, Enzo joining in.

CUT TO:

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - NIGHT**

Julian is looking out over the city. Sparta is bright with lights. It never sleeps. He hears footsteps behind him and turns around.

JULIAN

Hello, Diana.

It's the Young Woman Corbin keeps seeing, DIANA.

DIANA

I didn't mean to startle you, Julian.

JULIAN

For a moment there, I thought you might be Boron.

DIANA

That could startle many.

She approaches Julian, almost seductively. Julian is unmoved by it.

JULIAN

I think Corbin is the one.

DIANA

What's our next move, then?

JULIAN

I'm not sure yet.

DIANA

You know they're being followed?

JULIAN

Of course.

He steps closer to Diana, their bodies pressing against each other, he puts his hands on her arms, in a warm manner.

JULIAN

Look after him. Protect him.

Diana flashes a smile but it's gone just as fast.

DIANA  
And his companion?

JULIAN  
*Corbin*, Diana. We have to be  
right...

Diana nods, understanding.

She moves up, searching for a kiss from Julian. He moves away from her. She's almost hurt by the refusal from him, sadness comes to her eyes.

DIANA  
Julian...

JULIAN  
(turning to the window)  
Protect him.

Diana waits. He turns around. They stare into each other's eyes for a few seconds, then suddenly start passionately kissing. Between breaths:

JULIAN  
It's -- been -- so long.

Diana doesn't even respond. She skillfully unbuckles Julian's belt, undoing his zip and pulling down his pants.

Julian steps forward, pushing them both onto his desk. The paper and stationary goes flying. Julian's on top as Diana rips off his underpants. It's animalistic and instinctual. Diana LAUGHS, biting Julian's lip.

CUT TO:

**INT. BORON'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - NIGHT**

Boron paces up and down in his office, hobbling with his walking stick. It's very similar to Julian's office, but slightly more upmarket and well-equipped.

Sitting in the room is Vasco, who was instrumental in capturing Corbin and Enzo.

BORON  
Julian has an exaggerated sense of his own importance. I am in charge here, but he insists on continually making power plays against me.  
(beat)  
(MORE)

BORON (CONT'D)

I should never have let him stay  
Grand Archon.

VASCO

You shouldn't aggravate yourself,  
Boron. Julian works for you, make  
sure he understands that.

BORON

If only I could just expel him from  
his duties.

VASCO

His support is too great for that  
to be a prudent decision, sir. And,  
that Ghost protects him--

BORON

I'm tired of hearing about that  
sodding Ghost!

VASCO

I'm sorry, sir.

Boron makes his way over to his desk and starts sifting  
through the paperwork.

BORON

This traveler. Corbin. He is the  
key to The Pillar. I know it.

(beat)

I'm sure he and his... 'companion'  
have come from another world.

VASCO

Would you like me to deal with it?

BORON

Not yet. We'll make our move soon  
enough. No need to rush.

Vasco nods, and stands. He walks towards the door, grabs the  
handle --

BORON

I trust you understand my  
intentions with the Grand Archon.

VASCO

Of course, sir. I'll deal with it.

Boron nods his thanks, and the Soldier exits.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SPARTA WALL - NIGHT**

SETH is standing on the wall, looking out over the city. He breathes deep breaths, taking it all in. His ORANGE EYES dart around.

SETH

Here I come, ready or not...

He LEAPS down off the wall and into the city, suddenly out of sight. He's on their trail.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - NIGHT**

Julian is getting dressed, buckling up his belt. Diana stands in the background, dimly lit from the light coming through the window. She's naked.

DIANA

There's no need to be ashamed,  
Julian. I know it's not your fault.

Julian grits his teeth, finally managing to clip his belt. He turns, picking up Diana's clothes from his desk. She approaches him.

DIANA

I'm sure if you went to see Doctor  
Harricote, he could help you with  
the problem.

She rests a hand on his. Julian pushes her away, throwing the clothes at her.

JULIAN

A problem? Is that what it is?

DIANA

It's common --

JULIAN

And how would you know? Just shut  
up and get out of my face.

Diana clings onto her clothes, a hurt expression on her face.

JULIAN

I'm sorry, my thoughts are  
elsewhere.

DIANA

Corbin.

Julian looks at her as she slides her shirt on.

JULIAN

No. But you?

She pauses, realizes what she's just done.

DIANA

He intrigues me.

Julian gives her a smile, a warm, caring one.

JULIAN  
You know, us, we're...

DIANA  
(nodding)  
I know.

JULIAN  
He seems to be a good man. And if  
he is--

**ANGLE: THE DOOR**

Which bursts open. Vasco rushes in. Julian looks up in shock. He stands, EXPLODING with anger.

Diana's DISAPPEARED.

JULIAN  
What's the meaning of this?

Not wasting a moment, Vasco grabs Julian's head and pushes him back into a chair. He gets close to his ear and wraps his hand around Julian's throat. He pushes a gun close to his temple to assure his compliance.

VASCO  
How are you enjoying your burns,  
Grand Archon? Are they good for  
you? You like them? Huh? How would  
you like the other side of your  
pretty face to look the same? Huh,  
Julian?

JULIAN  
(choking)  
Why do you want?

VASCO  
To remind you of your place...  
(sarcastic)  
*Archon.*

JULIAN  
Boron sent you?

VASCO  
He's in charge here. You bow down  
to him. You kiss his boots. You die  
for him. Remember, he spared you.

Vasco releases Julian, who coughs. Julian looks back up and as quickly as he appeared, the soldier is gone, leaving Julian sitting in his chair, an angry look in his eyes.

After a few seconds, he pulls open his desk draw, taking out the small MATCHBOX. He shakes it. It RATTLES. The sound seems to sooth him.

CUT TO:

**INT. SARAH'S ROOM, THE TEMPLE OF THE SEVEN - NIGHT**

Sarah rolls over in her bed, sound asleep. Her eyes flicker, she's in a deep REM sleep.

**INT. HALLWAYS, CAPITOL - DREAM**

Sarah marches slowly down the gorgeous hallway. It's completely empty, saturated in light. She HUMS a tune, then starts SINGING it quietly.

The YOUNG MAN Enzo saw passes Sarah by, neither of them noting each other's presence.

SARAH

*We are saints made of plaster, our  
laughter is canned;  
We are demons that hide in the  
mirror;  
But the blood on our hands paints a  
picture exceedingly clear --*

She's interrupted by a SHARP KNOCKING. Sarah swings around, looking for the source --

**INT. SARAH'S ROOM, THE TEMPLE OF THE SEVEN - NIGHT**

Sarah's eyes flick open. There's another knock on the wooden door. She scrambles to her feet. Courage is standing behind the door, a book in his hand.

SARAH

Courage?

COURAGE

I am very sorry to have bothered you, Sarah, but I believe I've found information of much importance to us.

SARAH

What is it?

COURAGE

A book. From the Council Archives.

Courage hands over the thick book. Sarah looks at the cover, then back to Courage.

COURAGE

A book which speaks of seven  
powerful magicians who participated  
in the war.

Sarah's eyes light up.

SARAH

Seven?

Courage nods.

COURAGE

There is more in the book. I can  
help you sort it through.

SARAH

No, thank you, Courage. I'll read  
the rest myself.

Courage bows his head and continues walking down the corridor. Sarah turns her attention to the book, before closing the door.

She smiles at the book, a hopeful look in her eyes.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SPARTA STREET - NIGHT**

Corbin and Enzo are walking through the Sparta streets, looking around at the magnificent city. Corbin has changed clothes, now wearing an outfit similar to Enzo's. There's VEGETATION everywhere around them.

ENZO

This place is great.

CORBIN

All the green is overwhelming. I  
think my eyes are still adjusting  
after all that grey and brown of  
the Wastes.

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN walks past. Enzo eyes her up. She WINKS at him. He grins.

ENZO

Corbin, I really don't regret  
coming with you anymore.

CORBIN

You regretted it?

ENZO

Well, yeah. You know, being chased by the Fallen and the Council. Chasing your dreams. Going through that Pillar. It's not something I would have done normally.

CORBIN

Why did you then?

Enzo hesitates.

FLASH!

*- Enzo lies on the ground of the Bunker, the orb still clutched in his hands -*

FLASH!

Enzo smiles at Corbin.

ENZO

(dodging)

Because, that's what friends do. They help each other.

Corbin nods in agreement and smiles. Enzo looks around, there are ARMED GUARDS everywhere, wearing BLUE UNIFORMS.

CORBIN

You know, I'm still thinking about what Pengloss offered.

ENZO

You can't trust those people, Corbin. He says he'll give you another chance at life, then he'll turn around and have you processed.

CORBIN

But what if you could have another chance. Wouldn't you take it?

ENZO

Of course I would. But... not from *them*.

There's a long beat as the two of them think.

Corbin grabs Enzo's arm, getting his attention.

CORBIN

Hey, look down there.

Enzo turns his head, following Corbin's gaze. Down an ALLEY, an 50 year-old MAN is being pulled forcefully away by two of the Armed Guards. He tries to scream, but his mouth is covered by a gloved hand.

Other PEDESTRIANS walk past, not giving more than a passing glance. There's an element of familiarity about it all, like this is a common thing..

CORBIN

We'd better watch ourselves.

ENZO

Didn't the Grand Archon say there was a "Dark Sector" to this place? If this is the safe part...

CORBIN

... then what is *that* like?

The two of them exchange a worried glance They move off, and the Man is still being pulled away by the Guards. He manages to let out a brief YELP.

CUT TO:

**INT. CLUB, SPARTA - NIGHT**

Corbin and Enzo are now in a packed club, filled with people. Some are DRINKING fluorescent drinks at the bar, others are dancing to the MUSIC, a few are PASSED OUT and being loaded into flashing PSYCHEDELIC cubicles with sunglasses on.

A heavy rock song blares out of the speakers, "**Silhouette**" by **Thrice**.

MUSIC

*And your eyes, speaking in tongues.  
Vigilant still, filling my lungs.  
Testing my will.  
They leave me broken and, bruised  
and bleeding.*

The song CONTINUES in the background as Corbin and Enzo make their way through the club.

ENZO

I can't say I remember being the greatest fan of clubbing when I was among the living.

CORBIN

Really? I thought you'd be a party animal for some reason. Not sure why.

ENZO

Maybe I'll get into it, after all that time in the Wastes.

CORBIN

Yeah, don't get carried away, Enzo.

A DRUNKEN TOPLESS PARTY MAN sidles up to Corbin, looking him up and down. He puts a finger to his mouth, pouting.

PARTY MAN

How 'bout a drink, handsome?

CORBIN

(taken aback)

No. Um, no, thank you. I don't drink --

PARTY MAN

Just a soda, then? C'mon.

CORBIN

-- Anything. I don't drink anything.

Corbin walks away from the Party Man as quickly as he can, Enzo smirking, shaking his head.

ENZO

You do get all the attention.

Corbin CRINGES, looking around the Club again. He spots something. It's the Young Woman, who we now know as DIANA. He points her out to Enzo.

CORBIN

There. That woman. I've been seeing her everywhere.

This peaks Enzo's interest.

ENZO

Everywhere?

FLASH!

- Enzo's vision from 1.04. The Young Woman, Diana, in the middle of a BUSY crowd, in the club. She stands out from those around her.

Enzo shakes his head. His mouth drops as he realizes it was a vision of this moment. Corbin notices his expression.

CORBIN

What?

ENZO

(shaking his head)

Nothing.

Corbin turns back and they see Diana move off and exit the club. Corbin instinctively follows, Enzo with him.

**EXT. CLUB, SPARTA - NIGHT**

Corbin stumbles out into the darkness. He SWIVELS around, no sign of Diana. Enzo just watches his friend.

CORBIN

(mutters)

Where is she?

Suddenly, Enzo's GRABBED from behind, and thrown with an almighty force into a pile of DUSTBINS!

Corbin turns, seeing Enzo's attacker. It's the Young Man that Enzo saw in the Capitol Building. He GROWLS at Corbin.

Corbin readies up for a fight as the Man approaches.

But you can tell he's well trained. The Man gets a right hook in before Corbin even has a time to react.

Corbin shakes himself down, then WHAM! Another punch, this time to the gut. Corbin STAGGERS back.

**ANGLE: ENZO**

Lying in the garbage. He stirs, managing to tilt his head up to see what's going on, but he doesn't have the strength to do anything else.

**RESUME**

Corbin manages to smack the Man away, but he's quickly back, hammering Corbin. Corbin FLIES backwards into a BRICK WALL. He HITS the ground, COUGHING UP thick blood.

The Man approaches him slowly. A smirk on his face.

He crouches down to Corbin's battered body, looking him up and down.

YOUNG MAN

You're certainly fast. You might  
have made a good Ghost someday.

He GRABS Corbin's throat, squeezing it tightly. Corbin coughs, finding it difficult to breath. The Man's eyes widen as he continues squeezing harder and harder.

Corbin GRIPS the Man's arm, but as time goes on his grip loosens. He's loosing energy. He's losing oxygen.

Then, the Man's GRABBED and pulled backwards, away from Corbin. He's thrown to the ground by...

DIANA.

Corbin looks on in shock as the Man's on the floor, lying on his back. Diana raises her leg, and slams her 6-inch HIGH-HEEL through the Man's throat!

He CHOKES momentarily, then instantly goes limp.

Corbin looks up at the Young Woman. They make eye contact. And then, in the blink of an eye, she's gone.

Corbin sits there. Trying to come to terms with what he's just seen. His face battered.

BLOOD seeps from the HOLE in the Man's neck. Enzo can only watch in complete disbelief from his viewpoint in the dust bins. He looks over to Corbin, not sure what to think.

SLOWLY FADE TO  
BLACK.

ADAM (V.O.)

*It's the simplest things that relax  
me these days...*

FADE IN:

**INT. ADAM'S OFFICE, COUNCIL HALL - DAWN**

Adam sits slumped at his desk chair, watching something in front of him. His hand is raised.

REVEAL that all the stationary and paper on his desk is floating a few inches above the surface. Adam does this with barely a flicker of concentration on his face.

The doors swing open, and Agon enters, holding a creased newspaper. He looks at the floating objects.

AGON

Stop that.

ADAM  
I'm practicing.

Agon holds up the front page of the paper, there's writing surrounding a large photograph of MARS giving his speech on the Council steps.

AGON  
"The Great Leader of our Time."

Adam's face twists into one of anger. He SLAMS his fist down on the desk. The stationary HITS the wooden surface at the same time, creating a loud cacophony of sound.

Grimacing, Adam stands and grabs the paper. He reads the front page. His eyes moving quickly.

ADAM  
"Mars gave honest answers to our questions about the recent execution and the actions of the Chancellor and the Praetor" --

Adam THROWS the paper to the ground.

ADAM  
Cretin!

AGON  
He's gaining popularity, and painting us as monsters.

Adam raises his eyebrows, then returns his gaze to the newspaper, leafing through the pages.

ADAM  
The vulgar bastard won't take our offers of peace. Something has to be done about him.

AGON  
He thinks he's in the optimum position of power.

ADAM  
And he is, isn't he? He has those sheep licking up his every word, his every breath. He has power, doesn't he, Agon?

AGON  
Despite the fact that we are the actual rulers, yes.

Adam runs his fingers through his hair.

ADAM

We have to change our strategy.  
Mars is now a virus, and he's  
spreading in this city. Prevention  
is no longer an option.

Agon picks up on Adam's meaning.

AGON

Containment.

ADAM

He's left us with no other choice.

Agon nods to Adam. There's a long beat, then...

AGON

I see you've released Seth.

ADAM

(nods)

The Runner has managed to travel  
through The Pillar. It seemed  
prudent to sent a scouting party.

AGON

Seth isn't your usual scouting  
party, Adam. How are you going to  
keep tabs on him?

ADAM

He knows what he has to do--

Agon's anger bubbles under the surface.

AGON

You've sent him to another world!  
And we both know we can't trust  
that freak. Look what he did the  
last time he was released.

(beat)

You had to banish him. Don't you  
remember that?

ADAM

He's learned his lesson.

AGON

How do you know that? Did he  
promise you, Adam? Swear on his  
life? You're too trustful of that  
snivelling thing.

ADAM

He wants them back here as much as we do, Agon.

AGON

No, he wants them dead!

(beat)

And he made that perfectly clear when he almost killed the Runner, and you only just stopped him.

ADAM

Stop second guessing me! I am the Chancellor, you are the Praetor. Seth is *my* weapon, and I'll use him as *I* see fit.

(beat)

Now go. Go and do something constructive with your time.

Adam's eyes flash up to Agon. There's palpable tension between them. Agon just turns on his heels and exits the office, leaving Adam alone.

Adam looks down to the paper lying on the floor. Disgust covers his face.

**ANGLE: THE NEWSPAPER**

With Mars' smiling face on the front cover.

**EXT. SPARTA STREET - DAY**

Corbin limps down the street, Enzo at his side. They're both injured, but Corbin comes off worse, with bad cuts and bruises. They've both stopped bleeding, though. Scabs starting to form.

CORBIN

I need to know who she was.

ENZO

Why? She seems able to take care of herself...

CORBIN

She was fast. She was trained.

ENZO

Like those people the Grand Archon was talking about. Ghosts.

Corbin looks at Enzo, studying his face. He's about to say something, when...

**BOOOM!**

The building behind the pair EXPLODES into a ball of flames. A few Pedestrians SCREAM in agony as they're engulfed in the fire. They drop like ants.

Corbin and Enzo turn around to take in the full horror of the event. Enzo is KNOCKED OVER by a HYSTERICAL WOMAN. He hits the floor hard.

HYSTERICAL WOMAN

It's them! It's them! For the love  
of Eden, it's them!

SPARTAN FORCES flood the area, grabbing various people. Two of the MEN approach Corbin, grasping his arms and taking him away. Corbin tries struggling, but it's no use.

CORBIN

Enzo! Enzo!

Enzo sits up, disorientated. Corbin's vanished, disappearing behind the wash of people.

Enzo's eyes are filled with terror. Then, he's grabbed from behind, his mouth is covered to stop him shouting out.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

COLD OPEN:

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - DAY**

Julian SLAMS his fist down on the desk, standing up with a furious expression on his face. Boron stands in front of him, smugly.

JULIAN  
Where have you taken them?

BORON  
The policing force was within their rights. They killed a Ghost-

JULIAN  
-- That's a load of shit --

BORON  
(overrides)  
They were working with the Runners.

JULIAN  
You don't know that!

BORON  
They were trying to blow up a building, and they succeeded! Fifteen Spartans died!

Julian walks around his desk, getting closer to Boron's face.

JULIAN  
You can't expect me to believe this?

BORON  
Then how do you explain his companion being taken? They're here for one day and buildings start exploding again, after what? Three years?

JULIAN  
(waving it off)  
We have no idea who took him.  
(coldly)  
If anyone even did.

Boron shakes his head, tapping on Julian's desk with his walking stick to accentuate his point.

BORON

Come on, Julian. It was them. The Runners. They were working together, and the group came back to save one of their own.

JULIAN

But not Corbin?

BORON

We got him first. Fortunately.

JULIAN

(disgusted)

*'Fortunately...'*

Julian looks Boron up and down, frowning. The wrinkles burrowing into his forehead. He turns slightly, so the badly burnt side of his face is more prominent to Boron.

JULIAN

I want to see him.

BORON

(shakes his head)

No.

JULIAN

No?

Boron watches Julian as he paces, thinking. Finally he stops and looks up at Boron with a sudden darkness.

JULIAN

I want to show you something...

He moves over to behind his desk, opens up one of the drawers. He pulls out the small MATCHBOX, then shuts the drawer tightly.

The Matchbox RATTLES as Julian shakes it. He puts it down onto the surface of the desk. Boron looks at it, a curious expression covering his face.

JULIAN

I know, Boron, that we only...  
'tolerate' each other. I do understand that you are in charge, but that does not permit you to threaten me.

Boron just stands there, listening.

JULIAN

You may be my superior at work, but as two human beings, we are equal. The teachings of Eden tell us that. Each of us are the same. We are supposed to be working together. I have never forgiven you for what you did to me...

He indicates the BURNT area of his face.

JULIAN

And I'm not prepared to sit back and let you, or your proxy, tell me that could just be the beginning.

Julian grabs the Matchbox. Forces it into Boron's hands. It RATTLES.

JULIAN

I went to a nightclub, years ago. Wanted to try it out. Never been before. I'll never go again. Things got out of hand and I got in a fight. A stupid, drunken fight with a stupid, drunken man.  
(beat)  
I was stupid, and I was drunk.

Boron opens the Matchbox. He reacts. Inside, there's a mouldy, green, decaying FOREFINGER, sliced off at the base. The blood has long since dried, bone is starting to show.

JULIAN

His finger went in my mouth. And I bit it off. The next day he was knocking at my door, saying the doctors could re-attach it, but I never gave it back.

Julian reaches out, taking the Matchbox back.

JULIAN

Don't mess with me, Boron. I have a nasty streak you don't want to see. Now, let me see the captive.

Boron winces, his eye twitching.

BORON

Don't threaten me, Julian. He's my captive, it's my decision.  
(beat)  
(MORE)

BORON (CONT'D)

We may be equal according to some long lost teaching, but in this room, in this place, I *am* in charge. Don't forget that. You... merely serve a purpose.

He turns on his heels and strides out of the room, the door slamming behind him. Julian winces at the noise. He places the Matchbox back into its drawer. It RATTLES.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CLIFF, PORTSOUND - DAY**

*Corbin looks down to the crashing waves below. He takes a tiny step forward, so his bare toes are hanging over the edge. His eyes seem indecisive.*

CORBIN

*I don't know how much more of this I can take.*

JENNIFER (O.S.)

*Keep strong, Corbin. You're so close, you can't give up now.*

CORBIN

*You've been saying that since I started.*

JENNIFER (O.S.)

*Your friend will help you. Keep your head, and wait for him. Don't let them break you.*

*Corbin clears his throat, a deathly look on his face.*

CORBIN

*I know why I first came up here.*

JENNIFER (O.S.)

*Don't think about that --*

CORBIN

*No! I have to. I have to face what I did or I'll never be able to think straight.*

*He takes deep breaths.*

CORBIN

*It was after my mother told me she had cancer. I was shocked, I was scared. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't talk to her, I just ran.*

(MORE)

CORBIN (CONT'D)

*And I found myself up here. Must be five years ago now.*

*Corbin looks out over the crashing sea below. He takes a long breath of air. The sound of the waves is almost overwhelming.*

*He closes his eyes.*

CORBIN

*Everything in my life was falling apart back then. And then my mother telling me she was going to die. It just... it was too much for me.*

*(beat)*

*I was gonna take the easy way out, Jennifer. I was gonna jump.*

JENNIFER (O.S.)

*What made you stop?*

CORBIN

*You did.*

*Corbin turns, revealing that Jennifer is standing behind him. But her face is no longer covered in darkness. It's visible in the sunlight. Her pretty features beam at him.*

JENNIFER

*Then let me help you now. I saved you then, I can do the same today.*

*He stares at her. Then suddenly jerks his head to the right, as if he's been punched by some invisible force. Jennifer reaches out to him, stroking his cheek.*

*Blood runs from Corbin's nose.*

CORBIN

*I can't take this much longer!*

JENNIFER

*Hold on. For me.*

CORBIN

*For you? Who are you? You're not her. Your just a vision, something my mind has created from images of my past life!*

JENNIFER

*For what purpose?*

CORBIN

*To keep me going. To make me think that perhaps this journey isn't pointless after all.*

JENNIFER

*You know I'm so much more than that, Corbin.*

CORBIN

*There is no end! There is no Merrick! You keep saying it, but the more I continue, the more worthless my death seems.*

*Corbin turns, rushing to the edge of the cliff. He looks down at the long drop before him.*

CORBIN

*Let me take the easy way out. Let me finish this all, for good.*

*He starts FALLING forwards, his arms spread eagle, his eyes shut. But Jennifer grabs his arm, swiveling him around to look at her.*

JENNIFER

*You're not finished yet. Be strong, my love.*

*They both look lovingly into each other's eyes. Corbin jerks his head to the left, another invisible attack.*

*And again. Jennifer makes a soothing noise.*

*Corbin jumps backwards, as if being hit in the stomach. He falls towards the grass.*

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. DARK ROOM**

Corbin HITS the concrete floor of the dark room, his body and face badly beaten and bruised.

The room's about the size of a small cupboard, a bare light bulb hangs from the ceiling, dimly lighting Corbin and two SOLDIERS, who approach him. One of them is Vasco.

They grab him by the scruff of the neck and pull him up.

VASCO

*I'm sorry. Did we knock you over?*

He PUNCHES Corbin in the stomach. Blood flies out of his mouth as he hits the ground again. The Soldiers CHUCKLE menacingly.

There's a knock at the thick metal door. There's no window. This is a place where the unseen happens.

The two Soldiers stop what they're doing, and turn their attention to the door. Boron steps into the room, surveying what's going on. He points to the door, looking at the Soldiers.

BORON  
Get out. Now.

They obediently walk out, the metal SLAMMING behind them. Boron looks Corbin up and down. He crouches down next to the broken man.

CORBIN  
(splutters)  
Why -- are you doing this -- to me?

BORON  
Because, Mr. Travail, you know about the Pillar, and I want to know about the Pillar.

CORBIN  
I don't know anything about the god-damned Pillar!

Boron's ears prick up.

BORON  
God? I've heard of the myth, but never met someone who believes. What world have you come from that has such a concept of "God"?

He suddenly LASHES out, striking Corbin across the face. Corbin's eyes cry out for help.

*- At the top of the cliff, Jennifer holds Corbin's face in her hands. They lock eyes.*

CORBIN  
*I've been drugged. I can feel it. They've given me something. Something in my veins and numbing my senses. But not this...  
(beat)  
I can't use my powers, Jennifer. I can't stop him from doing this.*

JENNIFER

*Pain is just a teacher, Corbin.  
Learn...*

Corbin *COUGHS UP* blood all over Jennifer's face and clothes.

CORBIN

*I... can't.*

JENNIFER

*(pleading)*

*Yes you can!*

- Boron eyes Corbin up and down. He licks his lips, taking extra time over each syllable.

BORON

Tell me what you know about the  
Pillar, and about the other worlds.  
How did you come to Eden?

CORBIN

I -- don't -- know.

Boron's lip curls.

BORON

Get up! Get up right now and stand  
on your feet!

Corbin doesn't move. He can't. Boron grabs his arms and with great force pulls him up, propping him up in the corner.

BORON

Now tell me! Tell me you pathetic  
piece of shit!

He punches Corbin in the stomach. And again. Then he slams Corbin's head backwards into the brick wall.

BORON

Tell me!

- Jennifer looks at Corbin with sad eyes.

JENNIFER

*(whispers)*

*Show me what you're learning. Show  
me your pain.*

CORBIN

*No... Please don't make me.*

*(then)*

*You are beautiful, Jennifer. More  
than I could have ever imagined.*

*Corbin is knocked back by a KICK to the stomach. Jennifer takes his hand.*

JENNIFER

*I can save you. But this is the only time.*

*Hesitantly, Corbin hits Jennifer in the stomach. She recoils, but quickly regains her balance.*

JENNIFER

*(committed)*

*Again!*

- Boron continues pummeling Corbin. Boron getting angrier with each passing punch, Corbin getting more beaten, but Corbin's not failing, and nowhere near giving anything up.

He's still STRONG.

- *On the cliff, the roles are reversed as Corbin mimics Boron's actions perfectly, Jennifer having to take hit after hit after hit. Corbin's tearing up.*

CORBIN

*I'm sorry.*

- Boron stops. He lets Corbin slowly slide down the wall before hitting the floor.

BORON

Now tell me, Mr. Travail, about the Pillar. Tell me about your world.

CORBIN

*(defiant)*

No.

Boron turns his nose up at the answer. He HISSES loudly, then CLICKS his fingers. The door opens and he leaves. Corbin looks longingly out into the long dark hallway.

CLANG! The door slams shut.

Even though his face is covered with fresh blood, and his body is badly bruised, Corbin can still just about smile.

CORBIN

*(mutter)*

Thank you....

His head falls with a sickening thud to the ground. His eyes tear up and glaze over. Blood begins to pool just under his head.

CUT TO:

**INT. INNER SANCTUM, TEMPLE OF THE SEVEN - DAY**

Sarah stands in the center of the hall, the other SIX surrounding her. She has a BOOK hovering open in front of her. She looks to each of the Six others in turn.

SARAH

Courage has found a book which I now believe contains clues to our past, to our meaning.

REASON

Where did you find it?

COURAGE

From the Council Hall Archives. It seems our deal with the Chancellor and Praetor has finally proved fruitful.

FAITH

At last.

JUSTICE

I was beginning to wonder the purpose of this venture.

HUMILITY

What does it say, Sarah?

Sarah returns her eyes to the book in front of her. She clears her throat.

SARAH

"It was a time of great despair. The war had ripped apart the word city, and left only shreds."

The pages turn in front of her automatically. The Six all lean forward, listening carefully.

SARAH

"Our minds were haunted by the images of The Seven. Their figures burnt into our memories. The fearless arms of Lucifer never wavering in their motives."

HUMILITY

The book speaks of 'The Seven.'

FAITH

It speaks of us.

JUSTICE

It speaks of us... unfavorably.

Sarah can only nod.

REASON

It calls us, or them, "arms of Lucifer".

FAITH

It *is* us...

COURAGE

Then, we were linked with Lucifer.

All the others are shocked.

FAITH

Worked for him?

JUSTICE

And fought for him...?

REASON

But if we worked for Lucifer, why did the Council keep us when the war was over?

The book slowly closes in front of Sarah. She takes it in her hands, speaking softly.

SARAH

This is all we've found in our years and years of searching. This does not bode well for us.

CUT TO:

**INT. ROOM**

Enzo SPASMS awake, thrashing about on the floor of the incredibly brightly-lit room. He shields his eyes from the high-energy STRIP-LIGHTS that are on the walls and ceiling.

They illuminate his sweat. And the fear in his eyes.

He manages to crawl over to a grungy-looking TAP sticking out of the wall.

He turns it on, it splutters out a few measly drops of water. Enzo looks disappointed, but licks the water off the floor anyway.

His ears prick up when he hears something from outside the room. MUFFLED VOICES from somewhere else unknown. Enzo's eyes fly around, trying to work out where they're coming from. He moves over to the wooden door.

Enzo pushes his ear against the door, just about making out some ARGUING VOICES on the other side. He listens intently.

PASS THROUGH the door, revealing we're now in:

**INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM**

A shabby, underground room. The STRIP-LIGHTS are the only sources of any light. The walls are mouldy, and broken.

On one of the walls is a large WHITEBOARD, covered in scruffy writing. In the center of the room is a huge wooden TABLE. Two people stand on opposite sides. A MAN and a WOMAN.

The Man's name is CARL TYLER. He's in his early-40's. Short, unshaven, a manic look in his eyes that you usually only find in a mental institution.

CARL

... Then what do you suggest we do with him?

He talks to HELEN GATES. A very tall, 50 year-old woman with incredibly straight natural blonde hair. A cold, calculating look in her expression.

HELEN

He's not from Sparta, we know that much. So he must be from one of the other cityscapes.

CARL

And what? You want to do what you always want to do?

HELEN

If they're from the revolution in another city, we should grab this opportunity with both hands.

CARL

An alliance?

HELEN

We'll see. Test the waters first.

CARL

And what if he's a spy, sent from the government to feed false information to us? A *Ghost*.

HELEN

Stop being so paranoid, Carl. You saw him, he was helpless. Certainly not a trained *Ghost*. He's like us.

Carl averts his eyes from the woman in front of him. She keeps her view locked on his face.

CARL

And what about his companion? He was taken by them.

HELEN

We'll work something out. But right now, Carl... right now, we need all the help we can get.

Carl just looks back to Helen.

CUT TO:

**INT. ROOM**

Enzo keeps his ear pressed against the door, which suddenly opens, hitting him to the floor. Carl walks in, Helen just steps behind. The bright light of the room makes them look even more fierce.

ENZO

What -- What do you want?

HELEN

Where have you come from?

Enzo rubs his eyes, disorientated.

ENZO

(lying)

I'm not sure. I don't remember.

Carl bends down, lifting Enzo up so they're standing eye-to-eye. Carl's eye TWITCHES.

CARL

You may have heard of us. We're the "Runners".

ENZO

What do you want from me?

Another TWITCH.

CARL  
(theatrically)  
We want you, my friend, to join our  
long and bitter fight.  
(beat)  
You and your companion are now  
involved in a war for independence.  
(psychotically)  
Like the sound of that?

Carl smiles a crazy smile. Enzo smiles a nervous smile back, not sure what to make of the situation he's found himself in.

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - DAY**

Julian sits at his desk. Diana stands in front of him. He looks distant, fragile. He massages the scarred side of his face slowly with moisturizer.

JULIAN  
I need something of you, Diana.

DIANA  
Anything.

JULIAN  
Boron has taken a prisoner. Corbin.  
I want you to save him.

DIANA  
(nods)  
Then bring him to you?

JULIAN  
No. Take him to 'The Runners'.

Diana looks taken aback by Julian's words, she approaches the desk, trying to get eye contact with the man sitting there.

DIANA  
You know... Julian, you know this  
will push Boron over the edge.

Julian looks up at her. He doesn't have to say anything, Diana can see the determination in his eyes.

She bows to him, then walks towards the door. Julian just watches her leave.

CUT TO:

**INT. CELL**

The metal door swings open, lighting up the dull cell, which looks like a standard prison cell, but much grimier, damper and darker. It feels underground. Soldiers pull up the limp body of Corbin, throwing him inside the cell.

The door's slammed shut with a *THUNK*.

Corbin, lying on the floor, looks up to the bare light bulb. Broken and bleeding. He tries to crawl across the floor, but doesn't have the strength.

He just collapses to the floor.

*JENNIFER (V.O.)*  
*You made it.*

**EXT. CLIFF, PORTSOUND - DAY**

*Corbin and Jennifer hold each other, looking lovingly into each other's eyes. Jennifer's face is badly bleeding and bruised. Corbin caresses it tenderly.*

*They KISS. ROTATE around them to take in the full view of their love. Then they break, smiling.*

*JENNIFER*  
*Come on, Corbin. Let's go.*

*And then, hand in hand, they walk away from the edge of the cliff. TILT DOWN to show the long drop down to the crashing murky waters below.*

**INT. JULIAN'S OFFICE, CAPITOL - DAY**

SLOW PUSH IN on JULIAN.

He sits at his desk, stares straight ahead, the perfect side of his face resting in his palm. His eyes are distant and dull. He looks tired, worn-out. And you can tell by his expression that he knows of one thing.

A storm is coming.

He opens a drawer in his desk, bringing out the MATCHBOX and weighing it in his hands. He shakes it.

It RATTLES.

BLACK OUT.

END OF EPISODE