GENESIS AVALON: PATRIOT EPISODE 18 "To Refresh the Tree of Liberty"

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[Genesis Avalon: Patriot Theme plays]

Genesis Avalon: Patriot, Episode 18: "To Refresh the Tree of Liberty"

[theme music ends]

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(In the Vice Presidental Mansion, Tom Connors rifles through papers and reviews reports

#### TOM

You know, when I agreed to this little witch hunt, I was really going for more of a shooting fish in a barrel vibe. You know, dynamite in the lake.

#### NICK

I told you that the Celts could not be trusted.

#### TOM

And I told *you* it doesn't change anything, Nick. Calhoun will either find Genesis Avalon and her husband, or he will die trying. Either way, those are dead bodies we can use to remind the public why "heroes" are anything but. We still steer the people to trust us. And only us. Besides, something tells me that the Morrigan showing up wasn't exactly... planned. Probably causing as many problems for them as it is for us.

## **NICK**

The plan was simple in its design. We sowed the seeds, watered the fields, and when it came time to reap, weeds had choked the crops we so carefully nurtured. How is it that a plan to execute one mortal woman turned into one fully present goddess in her vessel and three other blessed heroes? Who do they even belong to? This... "Patriot", "Vanguard" and "Minuteman", they were just various factions of the resistance. Barely an inconvenience before.

## TOM

I'm sorry, are you asking me if I know every single god out here that might be tapping people with powers? Do you pay attention to every bee that pollinates a flower? Don't answer that.

(There's a sound of Arawn's hell-hounds growl, and a portal opens to the Otherworld.)

TOM

Oh, great.

#### **ARAWN**

Tunannu. Ninurta. Your incompetence grows tiresome.

### TOM

Wow. Okay, first of all, absolutely uncalled for. Second of all, why don't you clean your own house first before you start blaming all of this on us. We had a deal. With clear parameters.

## NICK

We orchestrated the kidnapping of the depowered Priest of Avalon. Tunannu prepared the way for the death of the depowered Priestess so that your King would have the required motivation to not only go to war, but to ensure he would commit to the action.

#### TOM

Notice that first point he made, though? Depowered. De. Powered. As in "Not Powered". As in not rocking up to the club with the bloodthirsty War Goddess and reinforcements. This was supposed to be simple. She goes to find her little freedom fighter buddies, they all come to the execution... and I kill them all. If you don't like that the Morrigan got involved, that sounds like a you problem.

### **ARAWN**

Because when I gave you this task, I expected you to be efficient. Not play with your damn food.

#### TOM

You knew my reputation when you agreed to this, Arawn. This was always going to be a multicourse meal.

#### **ARAWN**

Then devour them whole and stop wasting my time!

(Muffled, behind the door under the last few lines)

### **STEWARD**

(muffled) Vice President Connors is still in his meeting, Madame Ambassador.

### KINSEY

(muffled) That's fine, I'll wait. Just go.

## TOM

Nonono. You don't get to come over here and renegotiate the terms when you're the one who changed them. You promised no divine involvement. Your side broke that. Not just with Genesis Avalon, but with this... Patriot problem.

## **ARAWN**

The Patriot is not of my doing. He is strictly an invention caused by you.

#### TOM

What in the name of Callipygia's ass are you talking about?

## **NICK**

Impossible. Such things have not happened in centuries...

#### **ARAWN**

Then perhaps you should... (smirk) "Clean your own house". Or when the Fae King is ready, I

will be sure that he conveniently forgets that you two are supposed to survive the... tragic attack on the Presidential line of succession.

(Arawn re-opens his portal, his hounds howl)

#### ARAWN

Uphold the deal we struck, Tunannu. I will be watching.

(The portal closes)

#### TOM

(mocking) "Ahhh I will be watching". Real classy. Asshole.

#### NICK

He speaks of new gods.

### TOM

He speaks *out of his ass*. Gods don't just show up brand new. Sure, you can be created by another god, end up immortal somehow. But someone has to tap you. And there isn't a single pantheon that America worships except themselves. This entire country is made of sheep willing to follow any blood-soaked flag so long as we tell them it's what makes them *American*. That's why we picked this place. It is the land of the godless.

(Kinsey opens the door underneath this line and hearing that makes her... quite suspicious the moment she walks in.)

#### **KINSEY**

Mr. Vice President, Mr.... Jones. I don't think we've actually met.

## NICK

Ambassador Kinsey, your reputation precedes you. You've done great work abroad, from what I've been told. The President has nothing but good things to say about you.

### TOM

Is there something I can do for you, Ambassador? I normally try to keep my nose out of international politics. I leave that to the esteemed Commander-in-Chief.

## **KINSEY**

(sour little Hm) I see. President Kramer doesn't seem to care much for them, either. He's been very hands off, which is quite nice. But... It does mean that I'm afraid no one's really given me... the scope of what's been happening back on the homefront. Figured it was time I came back for a visit while we sort of this... tedious mess with the United Kingdom. Last thing we need is a bunch of our oldest allies starting to squabble because some made up monarch of Gumdrop kingdom thinks we need to give back a terrorist. (beat) I heard you lost him, by the way?

## TOM

(suspicious) Yeah? And who'd you hear that from?

### **KINSEY**

I still pay my donations to the Freedom and Security Party, Mr. Vice President, I do still know some of the Steward leadership. They wanted me to know, in case it changed things with the UK delegation. Does it?

## TOM

Not a bit. They want to go to war, let them. Bunch of ankle-biting runts. They don't frighten me, they shouldn't frighten anyone. Tell King Arthur if he wanted to pick a fight, he should've put Avalon in Russia. At least he'd already have the arsenal and no one would be bitching about the land he's taking. If you'll excuse me, I have to get ready for my next cabinet meeting. One of seven today. I'm sure you can see yourself out?

#### **KINSEY**

Of course. Sorry to bother you.

(She starts to walk out of the office, then pauses)

## **KINSEY**

By the way... this Patriot character. How long has that been a problem?

#### TOM

I wouldn't call him a problem, Madame Ambassador. Just another weirdo in a mask who thinks he's a hero. And we know how I deal with those.

## **KINSEY**

Oh, that I do.

(She walks out of the office, the door shuts behind her. After a moment, grabs her phone and dials a number)

### **KINSEY**

Darling, how are things? I need a favor. I need to know more about this... Patriot. And exactly what's happened since I left...

#### \*\*\*\*\*

(It's busy in the Freedom Press HQ infirmary, they're in a rush with the supplies they got from the hospital)

#### **EVAN**

Ok, Sam, set that crate down over there. Leo, you help Julian unpack the pallet Avalon just dropped off - Wait, speaking of Avalon, where did she put the -

(Avalon walks in, cape swooshing behind her while she has a pallet.)

### **GENESIS AVALON**

Over here, Evan... (grunts as she sets the pallet down) That's the last of the supplies. Where do you want me to put the van?

#### **EVAN**

There's a parking garage a few blocks over. The first floor caved in last year, so no one's using it, but if you drop it off on the roof, we can have you grab it next time.

### **GENESIS AVALON**

Sounds good. Be right back.

(She walks out, a door opens, then we hear her fly off in the distance. There's supplies being put away under the next few lines)

#### SAM

(In a nice change of tune since last episode) You sure the hospital can do without these supplies? I mean, they lost half a floor in the collapse. Seems like they need this more than us.

### **EVAN**

Well, I made sure they had enough to keep them going until their next supply order, but that's assuming they'll be open in a week. Every time a hospital gets critically damaged in the city, the Stewards just... condemn it.

### LEO

Oh, good. The Stewards are building inspectors too, now? (sarcastic) That's great. I mean what *can't* they do? (beat) Oh yeah. Not beat people up. They have zero idea how to not beat people up.

(Casey suddenly superspeeds in with Ben in tow, they sort of bump/crash into one of the medical beds.)

## **CASEY**

Ah, sorry, hang on.. Hang on, just... let's get you up there.

### **BEN**

(woozy, has lost blood in the trip back) I don't feel so good...

## **CASEY**

(Grunts as she braces herself on the bed. Shouts) Evan! Hey! I need someone over here!

## SAM

Casey, what the hell happened to you?

## **CASEY**

Blood's not mine, it's his.

## **EVAN**

(instantly going into triage mode) Sam, that fridge over there, grab me a bag of O negative. There's a bag of saline next to it, bring that, too. Leo, the IV is -

#### **LEO**

Yeahyeahyeah, I'm on it.

### BEN

(sounds just absolutely beat, has lost blood) I tried... no one would listen and they just... fired into the crowd...

### **EVAN**

Hang on, Ben. You need to let go of your arm, let me see what I'm working with.

(Fabric ripping as they cut Ben's shirt sleeve off and Evan is busy at work.)

#### **EVAN**

Dammit, I can't see...

(Door opens as Jaina walks back in, hearing the commotion)

#### JAINA

What the hell - Is that - Ben, what happened to him?!

## **CASEY**

Gunshot. Ohio, near a prison. I got him back fast I could... (grunts, hates to admit she needs help) I need my chair -

(Julian rushes in with the chair)

## **JULIAN**

Got it, Casey.

### **CASEY**

(grunts as she flops into her chair, panting) Dios, why does blood always have to smell so bad?

## **JULIAN**

Here, it's not much, but I figure a wet rag to wipe your face is better than nothing.

## **EVAN**

Looks like the bullet is still in, that's gonna get infected. Leo, top drawer, I need the forceps -

(There's a shuffle of drawers as Leo grabs supplies and brings them over)

#### LEO

Uhm... Forceps. Hang on, man, stay awake.

#### JAINA

(to Casey) What was he doing in a prison in Ohio?

### **CASEY**

I don't know, but it involved his dad so I'm going to guess the Stewards were being complete pendejos. We're gonna have to ask him.

## **BEN**

(groans as Evan has to pull the bullet free)

### **EVAN**

Okay, it's out, good job, Ben. Almost done...

(There's paper ripping, sounds of bandaging, tools clanking)

## SAM

A bullet did that?

## **EVAN**

High-velocity, hyper-charged rounds. He's lucky this is all it did, but I'm thinking it's not luck, it's probably the fact that he's got someone looking out for him.

(Evan finally finishes)

## **EVAN**

Okay... those staples are going to hurt like hell if you move a bunch, so just... take it easy for a minute. The meds will kick in soon, but how are you feeling now?

#### BEN

(deep breath, calming down a bit now) Like I just got shot... and Patriot bailed on me. So... not great.

## SAM

Isn't Patriot your... (realizing he's not sure) Uncle? Father?

### BEN

My dad. And honestly... not even sure he's that anymore right now. (beat. This is hard for him to admit) I think there's something really wrong with him. I feel like I don't even know him. Like, he's not my dad.

#### JAINA

(knows a bit how Ben feels) Hey, guys, can you give me and Ben a minute? He needs to let the meds work anyway.

#### **EVAN**

Don't grill him.

### **JAINA**

I don't plan on it. I just... I know what it feels like to have a crappy parent, figured he could use someone to talk to.

## **EVAN**

(beat) Fair point.

(The room starts to clear)

## SAM

(pauses before he leaves, pulls Jaina close and kisses her gently. Quiet) Be right outside if you need me.

(Sam leaves and it's just Jaina and Ben.)

## **JAINA**

(deep breath, then as a tension breaker) So.... Want some music?

## BEN

Nah, the stuff they play here is really old. Mostly cause it's all Evan's CDs. Can you believe there isn't a single Bluetooth speaker in this whole place?

### JAINA

I would say that you should just use the little headphone cables but then I remembered phones don't have those anymore and I feel... (sigh) Super-old.

### **BEN**

(little chuckle, then winces)

## **JAINA**

So... what's going on? With you and your dad? I mean, last time I saw him, he... he crossed a line. I barely had a chance to talk to you before you left. And then a couple days later, this happens.

## BEN

I thought I could help him.

#### JAINA

With what?

#### **BEN**

I dunno, with all of it. He was... he was just looking out for me. I thought... maybe he just lost his temper because he's always worried about me and then the Stewards were gonna shoot me. I felt like crap that Casey wouldn't help me find him. Felt like everyone decided he just... wasn't their problem anymore. So, I went to find him.

#### **JAINA**

I'm sorry if you thought I was dismissing your concerns, I've been... trying to figure out where Avalon fits into all this and -

#### **BEN**

I'm not blaming you. I know dad does, but I don't. And I know you know that, because otherwise you wouldn't have been all "I'm Genesis Avalon and I'm gonna just summon the goddess of war cause that's a super-lit thing I totally do."

#### **JAINA**

(Little groan) That sounds really egotistical when you put it like that.

## **BEN**

Whatever. You earned it.

## JAINA

Don't think I don't see what you're doing. (beat) I know what it feels like when a parent lets you down. Repeatedly. Because one minute they're one way... and the next, they're... someone you don't recognize.

#### **BEN**

Dad always said he didn't want me to know what it was like for him during Afghanistan. But... it almost feels like I'm seeing the worst of that when he sees the Stewards. I mean, before it did. This time? It was different. It was... "Us or them". And he didn't care who got in the way. Including me.

#### JAINA

Because he's not thinking about anyone else right now. It's about the "cause". And everyone can have one that they get... obsessed with. Their thing. And for some people... that's how they get through life. For my dad, that was... money. Success. Made him leave his kid and his wife and ultimately.... It killed him. For my mom... I think it was that she's always been trying to... fill a void. She didn't feel whole without it, whatever it was. So for a long time, it was drugs. And she said... (swallows, having to dredge up old pain) Terrible things when she was on them. And when she couldn't get them. Those hurt more, most of the time. And it's easy to feel like... you

caused it or somehow you're making them worse, but you're not. And I don't think your dad is a bad person.

### **BEN**

You didn't see him today. He let them mow down civilians and he just... ran headlong into it. Like they were... shields. Not people. That's not my dad.

### **JAINA**

Maybe he's not himself right now. But that doesn't change the fact that he hurt you. Or that he's hurting other people.

## **BEN**

But if I don't help him -

#### **JAINA**

You can't always help your parents, Ben. They're the adults, not you. It's not on you to be the mature one. But, it's really easy for us to forget that our parents are... just like us. Flawed and just trying to figure it all out. But it's not on you to fix him. You can try to reach him, but... don't get lost yourself in the process. Sometimes, the best thing you can do is say what you need to say and let them go.

#### BEN

I know he cares. He cares about people, it's why he started fighting. He cared about people being free to make their own decisions, good or bad. He was sick of knowing that the world was always gonna be different for him and me than it would be for you or Casey or anyone else. That people let stupid crap like what we look like or who we love just... tear us apart. And I agreed that the people in charge needed to be taken out of power, but not like this. And if we let innocent people die and stop caring about them? Then that's not fighting a revolution, that's not changing things. That's just becoming a soldier without knowing whose orders you're following. And I don't want that. There's gotta be a better way to do this. It's not enough to want to fight, you have to know who to fight. That's what it means to be a patriot, right? You defend your country from its enemies, but when the people in charge of the country are actively trying to destroy the ideals you stand for, then that means fighting the government. But not innocent people.

(There is a magic sound and Ben's arm heals. Jaina just watched Ben's arm heal itself while he wasn't paying attention to it.)

#### **JAINA**

Well. I... guess you know what to say to your dad. And apparently... I think whatever gives you your powers agrees with you.

## BEN

(Just now notices he's fine) My arm... Doesn't even hurt anymore. (Beat) I gotta find my dad. I have to stop this now before he makes it worse.

**JAINA** 

I'll go with you.

BEN

No.

(Ben hops off the stretcher.)

## BEN

I would love to have you with me, believe me, that would be really awesome, but... I have to do this alone. Like you said. I have to say what I need to say... and then I need to let him go. Besides... (echoing what Patriot said to Avalon) This isn't your fight. (Beat) Thank you. For everything. And if this goes badly, well... at least I can say my hero gave me a really cool speech beforehand.

**JAINA** 

Ben, wait -

(And then he speeds off.)

#### **JAINA**

And this is why I can't fathom the idea of kids... (worried noise) Be safe, Ben.

(She starts to walk towards the office.)

## **JAINA**

(Calling out) Casey! We need to be on the lookout for Patriot. Something's about to go down...

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(In Youngstown, Ohio, sounds of fighting and ransacking fill the air.)

#### **PATRIOT**

Just one more and... There. That should take care of their coms unit...

(Minute Man's speed sound, but it also sounds a little like Vanguard, too.)

### MINUTE MAN

Dad? We need to talk.

## **PATRIOT**

Mm... You came back. I thought you abandoned the fight.

### MINUTE MAN

I didn't... I was shot. You left me behind.

## **PATRIOT**

You couldn't keep up and ran.

## MINUTE MAN

Are you not listening to me? I was shot! I nearly died! Vanguard saved me.

## **PATRIOT**

You're here now. Couldn't have been that bad. Come on, I just took out the coms to the facility, I have a map, if we go this way we can--

## MINUTE MAN

DAD! LISTEN TO ME! What are you even doing here?

#### **PATRIOT**

Making a statement. They think they can sit all comfortable in their control towers? I'm taking those towers down.

## MINUTE MAN

Yeah? At any cost? Town folk get shot up, that's fine? Your own son gets shot up and that's fine?

### **PATRIOT**

Town folk who haven't turned against the stewards are complicit. Anyone not with us is against us.

## MINUTE MAN

Bullshit! They're civilians! They are the ones we are supposed to protect.

## **PATRIOT**

They are the ones who should be our army!

## MINUTE MAN

And what about me? I get shot, that's just a casualty of war?

## **PATRIOT**

You know the risks, and I can't compromise the mission for one man downed.

# MINUTE MAN

Listen to yourself, Dad! All this? Going after this prison? Using the townsfolk as shields? This isn't some noble cause for freedom and fighting fascists. This is terrorism. This is insurgency! This is what you fought in Afghanistan!

#### **PATRIOT**

And it worked there! They won! They must have been doing something right.

#### MINUTE MAN

But it's not how WE do things! We are supposed to be better! Fight smarter! Inspire the people to help us, not terrify them into hiding or running or even worse, using them as collateral damage.

## **PATRIOT**

Inspiring the people is your super power, remember?

## MINUTE MAN

Yeah, and yours is breaking things. Look around, Dad? Cause this is pretty broken. You and I? We're pretty damn broken. I'm done. I'm not doing this anymore.

#### **PATRIOT**

Then quit. I can do this without you.

## MINUTE MAN

Oh, you don't get it. If I'm done you're done. This is the stupidest plan ever, all that's gonna happen here is you're gonna break things, make a mess that I have to clean up, and make things worse for our cause. Make the Stewards clench their fists tighter. Make the people afraid of us even more than they already are. YOU'VE lost this fight, Dad. You're done.

## **PATRIOT**

(Angry!) I am your father! You don't tell me what to do, son.

### MINUTE MAN

I'm not talking to my father right now. MY father wouldn't put innocent civilians in danger, even if they were letting the stewards into their city. MY father wouldn't just attack a Steward prison with no plan. MY father cares about me when I get hurt. He knows when to call a retreat, a regroup. MY father knows how to work with a team. You've lost all of that because all you care about is being the Patriot.

(The SPIRIT OF REVOLUTION is echoing and overlapping under Minute Man's previous line, along with Minute Man's general power up sound and Patriot's general power up sound. VOICE OF LIBERTY is a triumvirate voice, sounding very much like Joh, Ben and Casey.)

## **VOICE OF LIBERTY**

Worthy. Just. Calculating. Inspiring. Brave. Decisive.

### **PATRIOT**

That's all I have now!

### MINUTE MAN

YOU HAD ME! And you pushed me away. YOU did that. And it's over. It's done.

#### **PATRIOT**

(sudden rage) Who the hell do you think you are to talk to me like that!

### MINUTE MAN

Someone who cares about saving this country and saving his family more than you do!

#### **PATRIOT**

(ROAR of anger, punches Minute Man)

(Punch sound, but it's caught, deflected, and Patriot is bodily tossed and depowered.)

## **JOHN**

(Oooof as he's thrown into a wall. Realizes he's been depowered) What... what happened? What did you do!?

## MINUTE MAN

What I should have done weeks ago. You're done, Dad. You need to power down for a while before you get yourself killed. Come on, I'm getting you out of here.

## STEWARD 1

In here! They're still in here! Get this door open now!

(Banging on the door.)

### **JOHN**

That door is the only way out.

### MINUTE MAN

Then we go through that door. Stand back.

(Minute Man repowers himself, but it's different than before. It sounds like the power up sounds of Minute Man, Patriot, and Vanguard combined.)

### **VOICE OF LIBERTY**

This is the one.

(Minute man yanks the door open, there's brief fighting.)

### STEWARD 1

(A death cry to make Wilhelm proud)

## **JOHN**

(In awe) Ben.. How...

### MINUTE MAN

Come on! We're getting out of here even if I have to take down every Steward in this place to do it. Just try to stay behind me.

(Running and fighting. A siren has started to go off.)

## MINUTE MAN

This way!

## STEWARD 2

It's them! ATTACK!

### MINUTE MAN

These guys are everywhere!

(More fighting from Ben, things are not going the stewards way.)

#### **JOHN**

Turn left here, there's a motor pool, I can get the gate forced open, I just need to power up... (effort sound like he's trying to transform) Nothing is happening.

## STEWARD 3

**CLOSE THE GATE!** 

## MINUTE MAN

I got it, just be ready to run!

(Speed sound, then metal bending sound as Minute Man forces the gate up.)

## MINUTE MAN

(Grunts of effort as he uses his new super strength to push the gate open) GO, DAD! GO!

## **JOHN**

(Running sounds) I'm out!

(Gate drops with a clang, there's gunfire all around.)

### MINUTE MAN

(Grunt as he drops the gate) Hold on, Dad, We're about to go fast.

### **JOHN**

How did you get so strong?

### MINUTE MAN

Just hold on!

\*\*\*\*\*

(They superspeed out of the fight. Seconds later they are outside of the city center in the suburbs of Youngstown. Minute Man slides to a hault and the sounds of the prison are in the very far distance)

### **JOHN**

Get the hell off of me!

(John shoves away from him.)

## **JOHN**

What is *wrong* with you? You think that leaving the job half-finished is going to change a damn thing? You left witnesses, and they will come after you -

#### MINUTE MAN

They're *already* coming for us, Dad! Every minute of every day we have targets on our backs. *You* taught me that. Not Patriot. *You*. John. My dad. The guy who came back from his tours disgusted with himself and what the US did claiming it was for "freedom". And that's the guy this world needs. Not a bully who wants to burn the world around him.

#### JOHN

You're too soft.

## MINUTE MAN

And you're too goddamn stubborn. I'm *done* listening to you on this. I'm taking you back to the Freedom Press and you're gonna take a break -

## **JOHN**

No.

### MINUTE MAN

Dad, I'm not gonna do things your way. Your way hasn't worked for a while. It did before, but you're going too far. Too many people are getting killed. If we're going to win this, we have to be smarter. It's not enough to just swoop in and save people like Vanguard, and being a Patriot

doesn't mean that you lose track of the country you serve. You serve the *people*, not the flag. So I need to do this differently.

## **JOHN**

Then you do this on your own.

(Beat. An impasse. Neither side is going to budge.)

### MINUTE MAN

You're really gonna make me drag you home? You're a grown ass man. That's not how I wanted to bring my dad back.

## **JOHN**

Well, then you get your wish. I'm not going with you. And it looks like I can't stop you anyway. (has realized what Ben hasn't) Whatever Spirit of Revolution I had... it's gone now. So you do what you want. You think you're a man now, so act like it. But I'm not helping you get yourself killed.

(They can hear cars in the distance getting closer.)

## MINUTE MAN

I can't leave you here, they're gonna arrest you -

## **JOHN**

I don't need to be Patriot to disappear. Now go.

(Cars get closer.)

## **JOHN**

GO!

# MINUTE MAN

(quiet) I'm finding you when this is over.

(And he superspeeds off.)

## **JOHN**

(deep breath as the cars close in on his location) You better make sure it ends, son.

(John runs off into the treeline, rustle of bushes and brush before he disappears. Steward patrol drives up and get out.)

## STEWARD 1

Move out! Patriot sighted!

### STEWARD 2

Wait... where the hell'd he go? There's no one here?

\*\*\*\*\*

(In Freedom Press HQ, computers whirr, typical sounds of Casey's office with her servers and networks running.)

## **JAINA**

How is it possible that there's been *nothing* about them anywhere? Youngstown, Ohio isn't exactly Los Angeles, it's not like it's hard to find some chatter.

### **CASEY**

I dunno, something's wrong. I can't get my domestic channels to work.

(Kerri and Ryan open the door and walk in.)

### **RYAN**

Casey, I think I found a way into the global satellite network to get back out to the UK. I had to shut down all the other traffic on the network, though.

## **CASEY**

(Sighs) Ah. That would be why my domestic channels are messed up.

## **RYAN**

Sorry. I figured it was better to beg for forgiveness than ask permission.

## **CASEY**

No, it's fine. I can work with that.

### **KERRI**

We need you to see if you can break the encryption, though.

### **CASEY**

That should be easy enough.

## **JAINA**

Easy, she says.

### **CASEY**

Well, when you can move super-fast, that means you can move as fast as the computer can sometimes... not all the time. Not quantum computing fast, but thankfully, government technology is always 20 years behind, it seems like...

(Casey starts typing, there are a serious of fast error messages, beeps and positive pings while the next couple of lines run under that.)

### **KERRI**

Really hope we can reach my brother. I'm going to give him a tongue-lashing so fierce he'll be worried our gran will rise up from the dead to backhand him.

### **JAINA**

I can't decide if that's a valid threat or if you just mixed two of them up, but... believe me, he owes me some answers, too. I'm just hoping Noir made it back safely.

### **KERRI**

If he did, he has enough information to bury the US government in paperwork and diplomatic hearings for a year.

## **JAINA**

So that was what you put on the sim card for his collar? Clever.

### **VOICE OF REVOLUTION**

Worthy. Just. Calculating. Inspiring.

(Casey's fingers slow on the keyboard.)

#### CASEY

What the hell...

### **VOICE OF REVOLUTION**

Brave. Decisive.

(Casey depowers.)

## **VOICE OF REVOLUTION**

The Vanguard sent the call. The Patriot sounded the alarm. The Minuteman answered. He is the One. Rest, Vanguard.

(Casey drops back in her chair, keyboard clatters.)

## **CASEY**

(Feels like the wind has been sucked out of her, like a part of her might be gone. Gasps, stricken) What... what just happened...

(Kerri and Jaina slowly come back into focus.)

## **KERRI**

Oi, Casey, you all right, love?

### **JAINA**

Casey? Hey, answer me, look at me... Maybe we should get Evan -

## **CASEY**

(Snaps out of it) N-no. No, I'm... I'm here. I... I can finish this. Hang on.

(Finishes typing again.)

## **CASEY**

OK, see if we can get a signal now.

(Kerri grab the phone and dials, there's one single double ring of a UK line, then the line goes dead.)

## **KERRI**

Damn! Well, it rang, but it's gone dead already. Why?

## **RYAN**

We lost the satellite uplink.

# **JAINA**

I thought you said Casey could crack it.

## **RYAN**

No, I mean the satellite lost communication with the surface. It was turned off at the source.

## **JAINA**

Please tell me we didn't just take the bait for a trap.

## **RYAN**

You don't want me to answer that.

## **CASEY**

I'll go check with Sam and Leo, hang on -

(She tries to get up and instead of speeding away, she falls out of her chair.)

## **CASEY**

(all the filthy swears in Spanish. ALL OF THEM.)

## **KERRI**

What's going on? Why can't you -

(Superspeed noise as Minuteman comes back, slides to a halt at the door.)

#### KERRI

P-Patriot?

## MINUTE MAN

He's gone. I mean... my dad. He's not Patriot anymore. And he wouldn't come back with me.

### **CASEY**

(Groans as she gets back up into her chair) And that explains why I can't run anymore. Of all the bad timing...

## MINUTE MAN

You can't run?!

## **CASEY**

Guessing you had something to do with it.

### MINUTE MAN

All I did was stop my dad from hurting more people. He, I dunno, he can't turn into Patriot anymore and now I'm a lot stronger.

## JAINA

And faster. A lot faster.

(Casey picks herself back up and puts herself in her chair.)

### **CASEY**

They picked you. The Spirits of Revolution. I heard them. They said you were worthy.

(Alarm noise before they can talk about it more.)

## RYAN

Western entrance alarm. Sam and Leo were doing a watch shift for us at that entrance.

## **CASEY**

Put the camera footage through here.

(Beat as they do so.)

# **CASEY**

Who the hell is that?

\*\*\*\*\*

(Outside the Freedom Press HQ Sam and Leo are standing watch.)

## SAM

You know, you can look at me like that all you bloody want, I'm not gonna give you the satisfaction of a "Yes, you were right."

#### **LEO**

Dude, you just said, so I'll take it.

### SAM

(sighs in annoyance)

### LEO

But also, I told you so. (chuckles) I'm just saying. I'm glad you figured it out. This is everyone's fight, and we need all the help we can get.

(Footsteps suddenly approach them.)

## AMBASSADOR KINSEY

I hope you mean that. I truly do.

## SAM

Who the hell're you?

## AMBASSADOR KINSEY

I'm probably the only person who can help this Freedom Press get what they want. So. (so sweet and nice) Who's gonna introduce me to the person in charge?

\*\*\*\*\*

[Genesis Avalon: Patriot theme plays]
Featuring the voice talents of:
Laura Post as Jaina Tyler/Genesis Avalon
Ben Hernandez as Ben Pellson/Minute Man
Juwan Royal as John Pellson/Patriot
David Ault as Sam Tyler
Anthony Fleece as Julian Alexander
Anna Kelly Rodriguez as Casey Sloane/Vanguard
M Siero Garcia as Kerri Arthur
Mark Allen Jr as Evan Spencer and Steward 3
Paul Brueggemann as Leo Blake
Devyn Boer as Ryan

Pete Milan as Tom Connors/Tunanu Eric Valdez as Nick Jones/Ninurta Dontae Majors as Arawn Kris Remo as Steward 1 Tedd Hazard as Steward 2 and Tilly Bridges as Ambassador Kinsey

Sensitivity Readers - Mark Allen Jr and Sarah Palmero
Written by Kathryn Pryde and Kris Bays
Music by Josh Molen at TheTunePeddler.com
Directed by Kathryn Pryde
Produced by Pendant Productions
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