

Genesis Avalon: Patriot Episode 9 "The Spirit of Revolution"

[Genesis Avalon: Patriot Theme plays]

Genesis Avalon: Patriot, Episode 9: "The Spirit of Revolution"

[theme music ends]

NOIR

(clearly in pain, this is probably the worst feeling he's ever had and he's trying desperately to not let it sound that way) Natalie's gone... she's... she's gone... How.. how could this happen?

LEO

OK, hold up a second, what do you mean, "gone?" She's back in London, we're in freaking New York -

NOIR

She is gone, Leo! I... (trying to put it into words and try to calm down) I cannot feel her. I'm... I've always felt something between Natalie and myself. A connection, a sense of... comfort, belonging. Our souls orbit one another. Jaina and Sam have the same kind of connection. And I'm sure, if you were less bullheaded, you'd see that you and Gwen have the same as well.

LEO

Rude.

NOIR

Even when we left, I knew she was fine. That feeling has remained with me through all of this until... (deflated) Until now.

LEO

So.... so... what's that mean? She's... what, she's dead -

NOIR (desperate) I don't know! (catches himself, a little more apologetic) I'm... I apologize, Leo. But, I... I can't consider that she could.. Could be dead. (quiet agony, to himself) Gods, please don't be so cruel...

LEO

(trying to be gentle here) Uh.... look. Don't... don't freak yourself out, okay? So... so you can't sense her or whatever, but maybe that just means that something's making it so you can't sense her. We can... we, uh, we can go get Kerri and Julian, have them reach out to Tim and the gang and we'll find out what's going on. Right?

NOIR

No,no, no, that won't work. We've no idea who may be monitoring any of the channels that they've used to reach out to us in the past. We already know that a number of their transmissions never made it past the firewalls. If we even suggest that someone with ties to Natalie or the King has entered the United States... No. It's too risky.

LEO

But... But...She's your wife, man -

NOIR

And she is the sacred chosen of the Lady of the Lake. I am the protector of Genesis and Exodus Avalon. We both took oaths to the gods, and while I know Jaina thinks they may have rejected her... I don't take my oath as lightly. I already failed in my oath when the Stewards were able to capture Sam off the streets of London. I will not fail them again. (deep breath) I cannot dwell on this. I have to focus on what I can change, what we must do... Whatever has happened to Natalie... (voice catches) Has to wait.

LEO

Noir... bro, come on...

NOIR

I need a moment... to clear my mind. Just... don't tell Jaina.

LEO

You've gotta be kidding!

NOIR

Our priority is retrieving Sam and protecting Jaina. We have to do that at all costs. Look around us. Do you know any of these people? I certainly don't. Neither do you. You cannot let your guard down. We're not with the other knights, we're no longer in Arthur's realm. The Isle of Avalon and its power are across an ocean from us. The powers at work, the ones that fuel this... Vanguard and her cohorts? Those powers are... odd.

LEO

They're fighting good ole fascism, it's not that hard. One of the guys calls himself Patriot, for Pete's sake, maybe they're like me or the other knights.

NOIR

No, I don't think so. I can't put my finger on it, but this power is different. Chaotic. Especially the one who calls himself Patriot. His heart... I'd like to think it's in the right place. But he holds an anger, deep and old. It's a powerful tool... and an even more volatile weapon. We don't know what drives them. Try to find out. (quiet) We can't afford another mistake.

[Noir takes a deep breath, steadying himself, then walks away]

[Casey is sitting at her desk, working on her computer. Rock music is playing in the background/
There is a knock at the door.]

CASEY

Come in.

[The door opens and John and Ben walk in]

JOHN

Vanguard. Figured we should talk. The three of us.

CASEY

On my feet: Vanguard; in the chair: Casey.. I'm not exactly up running laps right now, am I?

JOHN

(Introducing himself as much as he does) John. This is my son, Ben.

CASEY

Nice to meet you, Ben. I wish it was under better circumstances, though, I'm pretty sure crap circumstances are exactly why we're meeting.

BEN

Because ya'll saw versions of each other when you were fighting.

[Casey and John are both surprised that Ben knows this.]

CASEY

Yeah.

JOHN

I didn't tell him that.

BEN

When we're all... "powered up", I can... see things. The past, the present, just in different places. Doesn't happen all the time, but when dad said he wanted to talk to you, I... I could see what happened while you were rescuing people.

CASEY

Well, then, maybe you can make a little more sense of it. Best I can tell, we're... connected. We're Spirits of Revolution. And... I'm not really sure what that means, but it sounds right.

[Casey turns off the music]

JOHN

Feels like we've been here before. Had these conversations, too.

BEN

I think we have, but... we haven't.

[Ben pauses, thinking it through. The more he talks, though, the more confident he gets because what he's saying has the Ring of Truth to it. Ominous scoring underplays]

BEN

We've all been in times like these before. I could see it in my head just like you did. Petrograd... Haiti... Paris... Boston. These weren't just places of upheaval, they were places of Revolution. Revolution against a tyrannical government.

JOHN

(disbelieving) Spirits, though?

BEN

Yes. Don't gimme that look, dad, you were a high school history teacher. You could change the oil in our car, but you couldn't bench press it before all this. How is me seeing the far past, or Casey channeling an ungodly amount of speed any different than what Avalon does? I'm not saying we're some religious order, but we were... chosen to do this. And don't ask me how I know that. I just know it's true, dad. The three of us? We're being asked to change the world, lead another revolution. We compliment each other. Man, it's almost like all of this could go into one person, because we're like... components of each other. I'm kinda fast, I'm not that strong, and now... apparently I heal people? That's new, that's like, a today thing.

JOHN

I'm just strong. I'm not fast.

BEN

Yeah, I know, you're all fight and fire. I'd rather not do any of that. And Casey... you were the first salvo. I mean, hell, you started calling yourself the Vanguard, which literally means the front of the army. The first wave.

CASEY

I didn't have these abilities my whole life or anything.

BEN

No, but before that you were the Voice of Freedom. You were sounding the alarm that the people of New York were not safe, that the crackdown on superhero vigilantism was just a dog whistle for something way worse.

CASEY

(smirk) Are you suggesting my first superpower was getting people pissed off?

BEN

"Before the truth can set you free, it'll piss you off."

JOHN

(the tired exasperation of a guy who has a teenage son) Don't quote pop songs.

BEN

It's hard rock!

JOHN

Benjamin. Your point.

BEN

My point is that it's not like Casey was just wandering around livin' her best life. And neither were we. This happened to us because our lives went to hell.

[The door to Casey's room opens suddenly, Kerri barges in]

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KERRI

Casey, sorry to interrupt, but we've gotten another bulletin about the "Theta" location, you said you wanted to see it... (trails off as she looks at John and Ben again) I'm sorry, I just... without the masks, you look quite familiar. I heard your name on the news, but I didn't put it together until now. John Pellson...

JOHN

Yeah, that's been public for a while.

KERRI

And... (points to Ben, getting hit with recollection) You're Ben. You're Benji!

JOHN

(genuine surprise at the nickname) What?

BEN

(shaken) You... wait, did you know Mom?

KERRI

(the reality of the situation hits, regretful) I... I was on the phone with her when the Stewards came after her on the train. She... she was the one who warned us that they were coming for the Gazette reporters. If she hadn't made that call, I don't think anyone would have made it out. The line went dead. We didn't know they killed her until... until it came out on the news. I just assumed the two of you had been rounded up as well. (beat) I didn't put it together, I didn't think that... I mean, John, you were a teacher.

JOHN

Teachers and reporters have plenty in common when basic freedoms get violated.

BEN

(His mind is blown, but things are coming together) Wait, wait, wait... Okay, wait... we found out about mom... and... and that was the first day we ended up as Minuteman and Patriot. Casey, when did you first start, uh... using your speed?

CASEY

Dates mean nothing but when you're in a panic state, but... it was the same day the Stewards took the Avalons into custody.

KERRI

Same day the Gazette was stormed.

BEN

Same day mom died. (Beat) That was it. That was the day the Spirits of Revolution decided enough was enough and it picked the three of us to fight.

[A long pause as they take that in]

JOHN

(finally breaks the silence) So... let's say your theory is right, son. Let's play it out. What was the point of all of this, then? We have these abilities, I can go blow up Steward check points all day, it doesn't stop them from making more.

BEN

Maybe that's why it's all three of us. This is an endurance test. We have to work a bunch of angles and we have to do it together now. And we start by getting their biggest political prisoner out of custody. We get Genesis and Exodus Avalon out in public, then we do a massive blow to their ability to enforce their authority.

KERRI

Jaina isn't going to fight as Avalon. She seems awfully clear on that subject.

CASEY

Then she's not a resource on the table. How do we do this without her? That's your queue, Ben. You're the one who seems to understand what we are the best. So... take that brain and apply it to this situation.

BEN

(deep breath as he realizes all eyes are on him) Okay... we're gonna need a map, patrol movements... everything we have on this Theta location. And I need like... a two liter of something carbonated and super-caffeinated. Let's get to work.

[Scattered radio coming from a few monitors, people murmuring, Jaina walks tentatively into the comms room, careful not to disturb anyone.]

JULIAN

(mid-conversation, talking to someone at their station, quiet and casual)... See if you can clear out the noise on that one. Clean it up, clip it at the 60 second mark and drop that into the Sacramento feed. The more people hear those orders moving the Beta Squad down from Portland towards them, the better chance they have of getting out. Maybe they can mobilize some sort of resistance.

RYAN

(also quiet) Yeah, you got it. What did you want me to do with the chatter we heard over Atomsmasher coming back?

JULIAN

(sighs) It's just rumor. She's not active. No one's seen her for years and I'm pretty sure she meant it when she publicly renounced. It's probably just wishful thinking or it's a honeypot. Stewards putting it out there hoping some other hero bites and outs themselves. Just... keep it on the backburner.

JAINA

(clears her throat)

JULIAN

(turns to look at her) Uh... Jaina. Hey. (to Ryan) You're doing great work, Ryan. I'll check in with you later.

RYAN

Sounds good.

[Julian leaves Ryan to work, taking Jaina off to the side so they can talk in private.]

JAINA

Atomsmasher? Why does that name sound familiar?

JULIAN

It should be. Right before the Stewards tried to detain Casey, when they kidnapped you and Sam, they had already detained another vigilante. Atomsmasher was in their custody for months, well after you... died. By the time we got the first message from Tim that you were alive, the Stewards had buried the news of any vigilantes they had in custody. Casey used her super-speed to find where they were keeping her, tried to break her out. Atomsmasher chose the non-violent way instead. She didn't want anyone dying for her... not after what they did to you. So she publicly renounced her identity and went into hiding. I think I heard she's teaching physics at some high school in the midwest now. But, that doesn't stop the Stewards from using her name to try to flush out more heroes in the making.

JAINA

Looks to me like there are certainly heroes out there. The ones who rescued me - and the guy who told me off.

JULIAN

I don't know much about them. We've heard rumors about Patriot and the Minuteman, but it was hard to tell if they were heroes or just vigilantes. Patriot isn't known for pulling his punches. (sighs) Truth is, we don't have many heroes left. And certainly no one like you. You were... a beacon who fought against something otherworldly, a true evil that people could see in the streets and in the air.

JAINA

A non-human entity. I was never equipped to deal with a government that wanted me dead, Julian. It scared the hell out of me before the Stewards took us. (beat) Still does.

[A long pause.]

JULIAN

I didn't think anything scared Genesis Avalon.

JAINA

"Genesis Avalon" hasn't been seen since the end of Morgan Le Fay. For a reason. (beat) I told the gods off in order to secure Tim's right to Excalibur, to Avalon. I said I didn't want their help if their solution was to flood the world and try to rebuild it as a new land of the gods. Humanity is flawed, but we are here. We think for ourselves, we love, we fight, we bleed, and we try to make something better than what came before. We deserved a second chance. (beat) Calhoun destroyed our transformation medallions. Sam was sure the gods would come to our aid if

needed, but... I'm here looking for him and Exodus hasn't pummeled his way out of a prison facility, so I guess his theory was a bust.

JULIAN

Maybe it's not you. Frankly, I don't blame any gods for washing their hands of us. So far, the US has done jack-all with that second chance. I know Kerri's reports about Europe suggest it's a lot better over there, but... there is no international news anymore. There's practically a state-run media channel now and all it does is shower the president and his Steward program with praise. That bit of intel about Atomsmasher? That's entirely to find people like you or Patriot in the hopes that they can get to them first, put them down before they become dissenters. And you can bet your ass they'd use that opportunity to find the Voice of Freedom here if they thought any of those heroes in the making knew where we were.

JAINA

How did it get this bad, Julian? It wasn't... I mean, I remember the riots, rescuing Casey from a mob, being rescued by all of you... but it wasn't martial law. I never expected to be treated like a regular citizen the moment I was in Steward custody. I just thought better of the country. I never thought they'd let it get this bad.

JULIAN

Information is power. We should know that more than anyone. The Gazette was one of your biggest supporters, but not because of me. Bobby - (pause, it's clear it still hurts to talk about him)... Bobby knew that. It's why he helped me get my life back on track all those years ago. He understood the value of how people with power can call themselves experts and lead public opinion.

JAINA

"Understood?" Past tense? (Beat as she realizes what he's not saying.) Oh gods... Julian, no. What happened? When?

EVAN

(From behind them somewhere) Last year.

[Evan walks closer to them, but mood in the room has turned icy cold]

JULIAN

Evan...

EVAN

I wanted to say sorry for losing my temper. Not normally the best version of myself I like to put forward. But, looks like I got here just in time to stop Julian from putting his foot in his mouth.

JULIAN

I hadn't said anything yet.

EVAN

You said plenty before Avalon rolled into town -

JAINA

Just... call me Jaina, please.

EVAN

Right. Jaina. I know we didn't meet under the best circumstances - both times - but I was married to Bobby. (This is still so very hard for him, but it's not as raw, it's an ache. He's powering through this) The Voice of Freedom was something he cared about. Between him and Kerri, they got Casey the resources she needed to build this up into a true resistance movement. And he was... devastated when you died. It took this - this spark he had for life and just turned it into a bonfire. He and Casey worked together to find every reporter, journalist, photographer - hell, social media influencer, anyone who knew how to find and disseminate information. They built the Voices of Freedom into something that spanned the country, kept the lines of real information open while the Stewards ran propaganda. Julian and Kerri, they created the cells that operated, set up how to get physical media places that we couldn't get digitally. Bobby stretched himself as much as possible, helped me get the supplies for the clinic that we have here. And Casey... she built the network, the servers, the computers we use now. But all of that started because Bobby told her that he would get her whatever she needed.

JULIAN

Which she repaid by getting him killed.

EVAN

(temper flares as this is an argument neither of them is over) He volunteered to save kids, Julian! He was saving children and he succeeded! Children who had the misfortune of having parents that dared to speak up! We didn't have the weeks we normally did to recon the site, to learn guard rotations, we couldn't risk them moving. Bobby demanded that we get the kids out, and that's what he did!

JULIAN

And then they dropped the goddamn building on him!

EVAN

Casey tried to save him! (frowns) She didn't tell him to be there, he chose that, and she did everything she could to save him, she just... wasn't fast enough. Do you think she wants to have the constant reminder of that? That I want that? I am trying to move on and you -

JAINA

Guys! Please!

[The comm room has gone silent as everyone in the room is watching the argument]

JAINA

I can't imagine how hard this is... but... I don't think this is helping either of you.

EVAN

(long sigh, it's so painful to have to keep going through this) Julian... if you don't want to be here, then don't be. But... I can't have your anger on top of my survivor's guilt. Okay? I just can't do it. (quiet) Excuse me...

[Evan walks off. Jaina turns to Julian, annoyed]

JAINA

Gods, Julian, sometimes you're a piece of work.

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JULIAN

I... (feels like crap now and also confused) I didn't... I...

JAINA

Just how long have you two been at each other's throats?

JULIAN

(sighs, guilty) It's been a really tough year, okay? We lost Bobby, we lost... we pretty much lost Casey for a few months there while she recovered, and even now... this thing is on the ropes.

JAINA

Not from where I'm standing. This is one hell of a resistance movement. (beat) I wish I'd come back sooner. I should have been here with all of you the whole time. I'm the one who started this. Fighting Sekmet, Obsidian, Lilith, all of them... I showed the world there are real monsters to fear.

JULIAN

You gave people hope, you protected them. And I know I was an ass to you, that I said and printed things that made you sound like a terrible danger, but I was wrong. And Kerri hasn't let me live it down. Ever. I wish I'd never helped give the Stewards fuel for this fire.

JAINA

It doesn't matter now. It's in the past.

JULIAN

Yeah, well, take your own advice.

JAINA

(So annoyed with him and he's messing up her pity party) Take what advice?

JULIAN

You've been walking around here with your tail between your legs, you keep saying this is all your fault, but it's not. And even if you wanted to take some of the blame... it's in the past. We need Avalon right now. We need hope. Patriot is great for firing up a crowd, but... I'm not gonna lie, I've seen the footage, I've heard what people on the ground say about him: he's angry. Very angry. I don't know that he's on anyone's side but his own. At least everyone knows you are a hero for the people. Even the people who hate you.

JAINA

(snaps) I can't transform. I'm not invoking them, I'm not going to risk abusing those powers. (beat) But... I do need to help fix this. However I can. As Jaina. I just need to get Sam back and we can really make a difference.

[Casey and the others enter the comms room from her office. Casey is not happy to see Jaina]

CASEY

Of course you'd be in here. Julian give you the ten cent tour?

JAINA

Something like that. This is one hell of an operation, Casey.

CASEY

(Almost like she's insulted to be complimented by someone she's mad at) I know it is.

JAINA

(under her breath) We're still mad, okay...

CASEY

(just blowing past that) We have a plan, so get your people. You want Exodus? We know how to get him.

JAINA

Okay, what's the plan?

CASEY

We need to rescue Exodus when they are moving him; We can't get into the cell blocks, but we can get to the roads. They'll have more security, but that we can deal with.

JULIAN

We have some intelligence that they might be moving him soon, but nothing concrete. They have everything about him so battened down it's been hard to find anything legitimate.

BEN

I can--

JOHN

(Overstepping) Ben has an ability that will let him know when the right time to move is. We can leverage that to know the best time to run the operation. It's not a complex plan, we overtake one of their transport trucks, take the uniforms from their soldiers, Ben can feed us the right codes to throw off suspicions, then when they load Exodus onto the troop transport, it's our truck they're loading him on.

LEO

That plan sounds... ridiculously simple. Like... too simple and probably a bad idea.

JAINA

There are so many places where that can fail...

BEN

I know that it sounds like a long shot, but it's exactly the kind of simplicity they won't be expecting.

JOHN

I do have a few redundancy ideas should my plan fail.

BEN

(Incredulous) "Your plan"?

JOHN

(ignoring Ben) Even if we only get as close as the guard gate, we can still ram it, charge in. With 3 super powered heroes and Ben's precognition, we should be able to power our way to Exodus.

JULIAN

I like that idea even less.

JAINA

You can't rely on me to have superpowers for this mission. Even if I did, this isn't the sort of fight that Genesis Avalon should be in.

This isn't monsters and demons, this is political unrest and propaganda...

JOHN

You want to let your husband get killed by the tyrants whose military coup has taken power? Be my guest. A dead martyr is just as useful to the cause of liberty.

JAINA

(flare of anger) I didn't come all the way here to let him die and I am tired of you using him as a pawn in whatever agenda you have.

BEN

Then you can come with us. Even without powers, so long as you are willing to fight, you can help us.

CASEY

I know this plan seems like there are 50 ways it could go wrong but... I have a really good feeling about it. John's right. We can get Exodus back, either by being sneaky or charging in like bulls, but this plan is gonna work. I can feel it. I couldn't tell you why, but this is the best I've felt about a plan in 3 years.

JOHN

It's our connection. Our connection as the Spirit of Revolution. We're together now. We're unstoppable. All my plans are going to work.

JAINA

I've had that kind of mentality before, it never leads to a good place.

CASEY

We can trust Patriot, Jaina. I know we can.

JULIAN

Then I want everything laid out.

JOHN

Over here, we pulled up the satellite telemetry of the prison. Some tiny podunk town in upstate New York, Dannemora... (this is largely faded out under the next few lines) There's a cargo

facility to the east and a road that passes along this ridgeline that they have heavily guarded, but this road here is used less and we can use it to get where the trucks are stored.

[John speaks in the background as the focus shifts to Jaina, Noir, and Leo in a corner.]

JAINA

Noir. You haven't really had a whole lot to offer. Surprised you didn't have objections.

NOIR

(clearly distracted, still in that terrible place between fear and grieving) I... (tries to play it off) I do apologize. I just... this isn't exactly my strength. Planning attacks against Obsidian and the demonic circles, I had two centuries of knowledge. But, this... this is espionage. The only way I could help would be to sneak along in a hand bag.

LEO

No offense, Noir, but I don't think you're in the right headspace to go along with Jaina anyway. Way too much to worry about.

JAINA

What's wrong?

NOIR

(pointed huff at Leo) Nothing. I'm afraid Sir Lancelot is a bit too concerned with courtly politics, as usual. Which reminds me... I think Leo and I should actually stay here. Which means you should as well.

JAINA

I'm not leaving it up to these people whether or not Sam gets out alive. We came here as a group to rescue him, and that's what we're going to do.

NOIR

If any of us are caught, it will be nothing short of an international incident, practically a declaration of war.

JAINA

(sighs) Okay, I get that, but I'm not... he's my husband, Noir. If it were Natalie, you'd go.

NOIR

(oh, that hits harder than she can possibly know) I.... you're right. If it were me... I... I would go...

[Leo laughs uneasily and catches Noir as Noir abruptly starts to move]

LEO

Hah hah- ahhh-

NOIR

(under his breath) I should go...

LEO

(Smoothly to Noir) Shut up... (quickly covering for him) Okay, well, I think Noir and I should stay here. Besides, whatever it is you do to get him out, if you find anything useful to send back to the King or even to help the Freedom Press, I'll be here to make copies. Plus, from the way everyone talks about this place, it's only a matter of time before the Stewards find it. And without their Vanguard or Patriot... they'd be sitting ducks. Honestly.

JAINA

(clearly doesn't like this plan but she's already outvoted) Whatever plan they decide we're doing, I'd feel better if you were with me, Noir...

[Focus in the scene switches to Ben, who's powers are activating as he starts to sense something]

BEN

(Sounding distracted) Something is happening...

[Jaina, Noir, and Leo rejoin the others]

JULIAN

(ignoring like he didn't hear) We know from our recognizance that troop movements to the prison move regularly, they are constantly shifting political prisoners around, even just within the facility.

JOHN

(ignoring Ben cause... that's what he does) Bastards are torturing the prisoners, making them move at irregular hours, making them think they're taking them to new prisons, driving them around in circles.

BEN

(Starting under John's line) Dad, something's wrong... Dad... GUYS! Turn on the TV, something is happening right now.

[Inside the dank Steward prison, Sam talks to himself to pass the time and attempt to ignore the pain from his most recent beating.]

SAM

(Groans, coughs) Uhh... I'd say what a nice nap but... passing out doesn't count as sleeping... (Cough again) Sam, old boy, you know things aren't going well when you don't question talking to yourself, but they're going very poorly indeed when you're coughing blood...

[The doors to Sam's cell grind open, footsteps enter.]

GUARD

Step away from the door!

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SAM

As if I could get off this bed...

TOM CONNERS

My my my... Mr Tyler. You are looking... rough. I've seen half dead dogs in fighting pits look more put together than you.

SAM

Who... Wait... Wait I know you... You were... you were with that bastard Calhoun. He too busy, sent a lacky?

TOM CONNERS

First of all; I'm the bastard, he's the lacky. Been that way for a while. Ah, poor old Calhoun. He's like one of those, what do you call'em, deep sea parasite fish. They latch on- Lampreys! Lampreys. Swims around until he finds some bigger and more powerful predator that he can latch onto.

SAM

So then who the hell are you? Some... bullshit Steward middle man?

TOM CONNERS

You don't watch much news, do you? Well, of course you don't here but... Back when you were in your happy little magic bubble in Jolly Ole England inbetween reruns of "Butler Murder" and "Shrubbery Junction" or whatever. Well.. Please allow me to introduce myself; Tom Conners, Man of Wealth and Taste. And I'm not just some Steward Middleman, I started the Stewards. They're my organization. And the moment I was sworn in as Vice President of these United States, I had the Stewards legitimized, brought under the Department of Homeland Defense. My own personal army.

SAM

Easier to run over civil rights if you have an army that doesn't answer to the constitution?

TOM CONNERS

Glad I don't have to spell that out for you. You're a good egg, Sam Tyler. A tough Egg to crack, but a good one.

SAM

That's right... Nothing Calhoun has done has broken me. I'm still here. I haven't told you lot a damn thing. Not about Avalon, not about The King...

TOM CONNERS

Which would have been nice to have but I'm fine with that.

SAM

So... why bother coming here... Talking with you kind of feels like torture...

TOM CONNERS

Well then, maybe I'm just the father of lies and this IS torture. You got me. (beat, smug) No, Sam my boy, I'm here to say goodbye. This is the last conversation we will ever have. Thought I'd let you in on some secrets, a little reward before you're shuffled off.

SAM

To another cell... after a 4 hour car ride in circles... That's maybe 5 cells down from this one? That would be the third time this week.

TOM CONNERS

This is the last cell you'll be in at this facility. Pretty nice one, actually. You've bled on it a lot, but at least you can say all the blood on the walls is your own. And an actual toilet, too. Not just a bucket or a hole. Air conditioned... Nice cell. I remember the ones I used to throw prisoners in... (nostalgic sigh) Oh those were the days. Humanity has come quite a long way in the last five thousand years.

[A dangerous and magical vibe has filled the room with dread. As he speaks, Tom Conner's voice becomes deeper, more other-worldly. Almost demonic.]

TOM CONNERS

You see, back in my glory days, I wouldn't have had to deal with all this political bullshit. My army would have gone out conquering for me, pieces of heroic trash would have been brought back to my temple, thrown into the pits to... ferment. Ripen. There really is no better taste than a hero brought to ruin. Occasionally I would devour them whole, but sometimes I'd take my time. Once, I did it in front of crowds of his former followers. Then, in the height of their delicious despair, I roasted them alive.

SAM

You--- You're a demon?

TOM CONNORS

No, Sam Tyler. I am far more than a demon. Demons once feared me just as readily as humans. (The power behind his voice is now full) I am a God, boy. Far older than any you ever called on for your powers. Older than your magical island. I am Tunnanu, King of the Sea, Guardian of the Hellmouth. The Leviathan.

[The hellsound abruptly fades out.]

TOM CONNORS

(back to Tom Connors voice, clears voice) But all of that means jack shit if you don't have humans worshipping you. That's the tricky thing about being a god. Sure you are long lived, powerful, mighty... but only as powerful and mighty as those who fear you. And once the Canaanites went all... monotheistic... Well... Other folks got credit for being the dread serpent of the seas and I got shipped off to a desk job in Hell.

SAM

Like I'm not going to point this out the moment I have my trial... (dies off at the end there, as if he's just realized what it means when the bad guy starts monologuing at you, it means there is no trial)

TOM CONNORS

(laugh) Your tri— (laugh) Oh buddy! Your trial happened last week, dude! You were deemed far too dangerous to actually be present, what with all the threats you've been making to destroy us all with your godly magic. You're really quite deranged, you know.

SAM

That's why you're here? To gloat?

TOM CONNORS

No. To let you know your sentence. Let's see here...

[Tom Connors, Leviathan, Canaanite God of the Seas, fishes in his pocket and pulls out his phone to check his email to verify he's reading it right]

TOM CONNORS

You are "to be hung" – (Annoyed sigh) you know, I specifically told them; people are hanged, pictures are hung. "You are to be HANGED by the neck until dead." Not my usual style but... new times, new methods. You know how it is. You gotta get with the cool kids if you wanna stay relevant.

SAM

You were always going to just... rule me guilty?

TOM CONNORS

Calhoun got to have a lot of fun. He's been a good boy, he deserved to let off a bit of steam and you were the perfect candidate. All the other prisoners he'd kill far too fast. You were at least more durable.

SAM

You.... You son of a bitch!

TOM CONNORS

Hey, hey hey... That's hardly the way to talk to the Vice President of the United States! Respect the office! Ahh, Sammy, I haven't had power and worship like this in centuries. I am feeling myself. I'd love to see what I could do to you, but this is an eight thousand dollar suit and I have a meeting in an hour with the Joint Chiefs. I just wanted to tell you to enjoy your last night. The execution is tomorrow.

[Tom Connors strolls to the cell door, his spirits light. Sam sinks into despair as things seem hopeless]

SAM

No... NO!

TOM CONNORS

Mmm. Yes. There's the despair. (Deep breath, like it's the most delicious baked cookie scent) I'll see you at the execution, Samuel Tyler, High Priest of Avalon.

[Connors walks out, leaving Sam in his misery, cackling as he goes]

SAM
NO!!!

Featuring the voice talents of:
Laura Post as Jaina Tyler
David Ault as Sam Tyler
Ben Hernandez as Ben Pellson/Minuteman
Juwan Royal as John Pellson/Patriot
Anna Kelly Rodriguez as Casey Sloane/Vanguard
Mark Allen Jr as Evan Spencer
M Sieiro Garcia as Kerri Arthur
Anthony Fleece as Julian Alexander
Chris Hackney as Noir
Paul Brueggemann as Leo Blake
Devyn Boer as Ryan
Tony Durham as the Guard
and Pete Milan as Tom Connors/Tunnanu the Leviathan

Sensitivity Reader: Mark Alley Jr
Written by Kathryn Pryde and Kris Bays
Music by Josh Mullen at TheTunePeddler.com
Directed by Kathryn Pride
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