

GENESIS AVALON: PATRIOT EPISODE 14 "Land of Monsters"

[Genesis Avalon: Patriot Theme plays]
Genesis Avalon: Patriot, Episode 14: "Land of Monsters"
[theme music ends]

(Inside the Broadcast area of the Freedom Press HQ, two days after the events at the prison, there is lots of idle radio chatter and TV static coming from the comms array. Ryan, Julian and Jaina are huddled up by a computer while Ryan types)

JAINA

We have to get Tim to pump the brakes on whatever he's thinking before it's too late -

JULIAN

I know, Jaina, I know. But, something tells me a quick phone call is not gonna stop World War 3.

RYAN

All it took to stop it the first time was one Russian who made the call not to push the button when he wasn't sure if the US was actually firing its arsenal. Turned out to be a software glitch.

JULIAN

I'm pretty sure that Tim isn't suffering from malware.

JAINA

If only it were so simple... just tell Olivia to run her anti-virus or something. (sighs) I don't get it. =We were on the same page when I left. He was going to run down the legal routes with the UN, continue to pressure the US. And I was going to actually get Sam out. Now, I *have* Sam and he's not even able to hear me say that.

(The computer beeps an Error message.)

RYAN

I'm sorry. That was the last VPN I had. I told you, whatever proxy or packet exploit we had, it's gone now. We have our own version of the Great Firewall, and they patched it.

JAINA

So even though you sent us that message from Casey -

RYAN

It was an accident. A... delayed transmission. Years ago, when the Freedom Press was first getting started, she would set them up to attempt a reupload every hour, hoping that some

traffic would get through. That message you heard was one she had tried to send five years ago. And it's not a method we can use now. (sigh) Well... You're not getting information back to the UK. Not this way, at least.

JULIAN

Thanks for trying anyway, Ryan.

(Jaina sighs in frustration and steps away from Ryan's workstation. As she's walking away, Sam's footsteps can be heard in the background entering the room.)

JULIAN

I'm sure we'll figure something out.

JAINA

When? In a week? A month? I can't wait that long to reach Tim.

SAM

(Sounds pretty rough still, but better) Face to face would be better anyway. Especially seeing as how we're dealing with an elder god of some kind now...

JAINA

Oh my gods, what is the point of all the good drugs Evan gave you if you're just going to walk around and re-open stitches. You were supposed to keep him in bed, Noir!

NOIR

When has Sam ever listened to me? We both know the chances were slim to begin with.

JAINA

He's an adult. If he pulls a stitch, he can explain it to the doctor.

JULIAN

That or Ben can give him a quick magic pick-me-up. That's what he did for me when we were breaking Sam out. Turns out the kid can heal people.

NOIR

I do not recommend relying on foreign magic to heal the Priest of the Gods, but thank you for the suggestion, Julian.

SAM

Come off it, it's not that bad. I've had worse.

JAINA

You also had one of the Tuatha de Danaan there on standby to heal you up. (smirk) Unless, of course, you want me to call the Morrigan -

SAM

(bemused) Oh, good, we're making jokes about it, then. Guess you've come to grips with being the Morrigan's tool pretty fast this time.

JAINA

It's not that kind of relationship. Not this time. I won't let it. (sighs) Of course, none of that really matters if Tim gets us all killed.

NOIR

And honestly, Sam? If Tom Connors really is Tunannu, we are facing down an ancient Sumerian god. Gods do not take kindly to losing the worship and influence they have. The Morrigan may be what this country needs.

SAM

Don't you start...

LEO

So, Sam, are all the bandages more of a Mummy thing or is this an Invisible Man kind of situation? Either way, kudos to committing to the classic movie monsters.

SAM

Glad to see traipsing through upstate New York hasn't made you lose your questionable sense of humor, Leo.

LEO

Listen, it's a tough job. Besides, if I'm not funny, then who else? Noir? (laughs) Noir is not funny. He looks funny but... he's not... He's not funny.

NOIR

Honestly, sometimes I wonder how it is that you are Sir Lancelot, and then you say something like that and think to myself "Ah, no, he was the charismatic arse of the group."

LEO

Look.. Just saying the word "Ass" doesn't make you funny. It's a funny word, but just throwing it in there doesn't--

SAM

Anyway, I'll be fine. Not like we're going to be here long enough for it to matter. We just need to pop back over the border and back across the pond, and we can show Tim I'm fine and he'll call the whole thing off, yeah?

JAINA

No?! (beat) First of all, we got separated and they almost got killed getting across in the first place. Second of all, we just got here, we can't leave.

SAM

I just spent who knows how long stuck in a black ops prison cell. You broke me out, and now you're telling me that leaving *isn't* the plan?

JAINA

No, it's - look, it *was*, but... Sam, you haven't *seen* the country. I have. I am not leaving, we have to fix this.

SAM

Jaina, you can't fix a political system with a couple of well-aimed punches!

JAINA

This is my home, Sam! And these people *used* Avalon to help put demons, or gods, or demons who *were* gods in power! This is *exactly* the kind of problem I can fix, and I will!

SAM

London is home! Or did you forget that Jack and Alicia are still out there? Roxie, Merlin, Natalie, your best friend -

LEO

I volunteer Noir as tribute!

(The others quiet in surprise at Leo's interjection, argument stops)

SAM

What?

LEO

Well... look, a cat can get across a land border real easily. And then we can have Tammy pick him up, she can fly him back and take the time to check in with Tim.

NOIR

That's... That is a good plan, but... it would mean leaving the Priest and Priestess without their guardian -

LEO

Noir, you'd still have a Knight of the Round here. Besides, maybe you can find out what's going on.

SAM

Well, hang on -

JAINA

Do it. Go. Noir, you're our best chance to de-escalate.

NOIR

Are you sure?

(Jaina doesn't answer, but instead just walks out.)

NOIR

Jaina!

LEO

Who's the charismatic ass now?

NOIR

Oh, I have not missed this part, you stubborn arse.

SAM

Oh, no, you don't get to take her side. She just said you can go back ,you should be thanking me.

NOIR

No. You should be thanking *her*. All of this was her idea, Sam. She is the only reason you are alive. So, don't say something you can't take back. You might not get a chance to apologize for it later. (clears throat) Julian, mind helping me float this grand idea of Leo's to Casey? I think she's our best bet for getting me to the border quickly.

JULIAN

Yeah... yeah, sure. Come on.

(Everyone except Sam leaves.)

SAM

Bollocks...

(Inside Number One Observatory Circle, the US Vice Presidential Residence, Newscast is playing over the TV underneath the beginning of the conversation)

CALHOUN

Well, the good news is that your poll numbers haven't dropped, even with the whole snafu –

TOM

(bitter laugh) My poll numbers? Calhoun, if I gave even one gold-plated shit about the poll numbers, I would have finished Avalon's little prison break before she'd had a chance to breathe, much less do... whatever the hell that was with the Katy Perry "Dark Horse" routine. (beat) If you think that we didn't lock down any news about Genesis Avalon's glorious return, then I'm honestly wondering how you got this far without me realizing how stupid you are.

CALHOUN

(growls, temper flaring) I'm the reason you're in this mansion, Mr. Vice President –

TOM

Don't growl at me, puppy dog. *I'm* the reason I'm in this mansion. More importantly, Morgan Le Fay is the only reason you didn't get thrown out with the trash when I cleaned house in Hell.

(The TV turns off.)

CALHOUN

I killed Avalon the first time, I've been indispensable to this operation -

(There's another portal noise, then the telltale voice of a god.)

NINURTA

(in full god voice, he sounds serene and at peace, like the god of agriculture he once was) You have been a useful tool. So is a scythe. But, at least when I harvest grain, I can grind it. Mill it. Make bread with it. What have you brought to harvest?

CALHOUN

Ah, wonderful, the senior advisor to the puppet's here dispensing words of wisdom about his incredibly relevant political experience as a farmer--

(Ninurta summons a scythe, and Calhoun makes an undignified little hurk noise as he shuts up with Ninurta's blade at his throat.)

NINURTA

(still in god voice) And a general. Sumer thrived under my leadership as their war god. You speak of the giants whose footsteps made the rivers that fed generations of trees before your seed was sown. You would be wise to show respect.

TOM

Ninurta, Nicky, that sofa is Boca de Lobo and I can't get one of those anymore because... I... killed the guy who made it, so don't get any blood on it, alright?

NICHOLAS

(Deep breath, goes back into his “normal” voice, reverting from the God Ninurta to the mortal disguise of Nicholas Jones) I don’t really feel like explaining that to the Oversight Committee, so I suppose I’ll let that go this time.

TOM

Attaboy. See? God of law and order, this guy. Great to have you around.

NICHOLAS

The President is fielding questions from the Senate today on why the execution went so horribly. Losing that Senator from New York was a bad look. Scott actually played well with the economic uncertainty crowd, won us a lot of votes in Albany and Buffalo.

TOM

I’m sure you gave Kramer the talking points.

NICHOLAS

Of course. That’s not why I’m here. I’m here to find out what we’re going to do about it. We were given assurances that the Celts would stay out of North America. Clearly, they don’t plan to honor their side of the bargain.

TOM

We’re not going to do anything. You and I are going to keep moving forward. Calhoun here, well... he’s going to be a good little bloodhound and go sniff out his sister. Aren’t you, boy? If you’re really quick about it, maybe I’ll give you a treat. Take you for your walkies, get you a chew toy –

CALHOUN

What do you think a demonic tracker *does*? It’s not like I have her lojacked.

TOM

I don’t know, I’m the vision guy, you’re supposed to be the one executing on the vision. Have you *ever* watched a corporate training video? (dismissive) Get out of my office. Why aren’t you already gone? Go, go, shoo!

CALHOUN

(Frustrated growl, gets up)

TOM

And bring me back a bagel! No! Two! Two bagels! No lox!

(Calhoun portals away)

NICHOLAS

Hard to believe he was once a threat to the Avalons.

TOM

Oh, he is. Just needs a little bit of negative reinforcement. Daddy issues, they all got'em. Can't play to the positive human traits. He's still Lilith's little bastard.

NICHOLAS

And if he fails again?

TOM

Well... Lilith is still in some little tiny corner of the Underworld. I'm sure they have a lot to catch up on...

(Back at the Freedom Press HQ, Ben knocks on Casey's office door and comes in)

BEN

Uh, hi. You got a sec?

CASEY

Hey, Ben. Come on in.

(Ben walks in and pauses.)

BEN

Oh, that looks nasty. I don't think your ankle's supposed to look that swollen.

CASEY

Well, that's the problem with running on one leg and one prosthetic. Would you believe the prosthetic is in better shape?

BEN

Do you want me to, I mean... I mean, I could try to heal –

CASEY

No.

BEN

(honestly doesn't realize why that upsets her) O-oh. Uh... s-sorry. I was just... I mean, you were there when I helped Julian... didn't think you'd have a problem with it.

CASEY

(So bitter that she doesn't even realize how mean she sounds) Kid, if these Spirits of Revolution you believe in wanted to heal me, they would have done it. Or better yet, I would've been faster. (sighs, catches herself) I'm sorry, just... no thanks. I'll deal with it the same as the other leg. Hopefully, this one won't fall off. Look, did you need something?

BEN

(Clears his throat as he tries to get his nerve back) Yeah. Well, I mean... look, it's about my dad. I know we had to leave him at the prison, but, you said we'd go look for him. And it's been two days, I have to find him –

CASEY

What I said was that we'd keep an eye out for him if he came back here. If he chooses not to do that, I'm not about to send a search party. Your dad went completely off script. We're not supposed to be the bad guys and he didn't care. If anyone ties him back to the Freedom Press, every person here gets an even bigger target on their backs.

BEN

But –

CASEY

No. I'm not interested in saving his skin. He made it real damn clear that he doesn't want our help, Ben! You are more than welcome to stay here, be part of this. Whatever we do next. Look, you have a really good head on your shoulders. It was a good plan. It would've worked if your dad... (sigh) Answer's no. I'm sorry. I need to get back to work.

BEN

(Totally deflated, very worried for his dad) Uh... yeah, okay. Sorry to bother you. (starts to leave, then pauses) Um... what are you working on, anyway? I mean, if I stay, I just... I want to know how to help.

CASEY

Kerri got footage of the Steward Overseers turning into demons. Once I can clean it up, make sure to show that we didn't doctor the footage... next step is getting it out there.

BEN

... Did we ever find the reporter that probably leaked Exodus's location?

CASEY

(Long pause. Quiet, a little guilty.) No.

(Another knock at the door, it opens)

EVAN

Casey, heads up – Julian is about to bring Leo and Noir in here to ask a favor. I know what you're thinking, but just hear them out.

CASEY

(sigh) What now? It's not like we don't have enough to do.

EVAN

Well, unless you've figured out how to get around the new firewalls, they want to send a more practical messenger out.

BEN

Uh, I'm gonna--

EVAN

Noir's volunteering to go back to the UK, but they need Vanguard to run him out to the border. You're the only one fast enough.

BEN

Thanks for your time... Bye

CASEY

What am I, superhero Postmates now?!

(Ben starts to leave the office, the scene follows him)

EVAN

(still in the office) You know what, Casey, just hear them out. (realizes Ben is leaving, goes after him) Ben. Hey! Wait up.

(Evan races to catch up with Ben)

BEN

Oh, uh... hey. Sorry, didn't mean to like, break up the freedom fighter huddle.

EVAN

Don't worry about it. I was just giving Casey a heads up, it's all on Julian to convince her.

BEN

Are you two talking yet, or...

EVAN

He's attempted to apologize to me about six times now, but he hasn't managed to actually get the words out without losing his nerve and walking away like a kicked puppy. For now, I will take

that as some small consolation. (little sad note) Bobby would be thrilled that Julian's gotten a dose of humility. (clears his throat and brightens up a bit) I actually just wanted to see how you're doing. Still no word from your father?

BEN

No. I was hoping Casey was going to send people out to find him or... or something, I dunno. I don't know where he is and she doesn't want to help.

EVAN

From what she said, it was pretty scary. That he snapped –

BEN

But, he snapped because they were threatening *me*. I mean, come on, what was he supposed to do? Doesn't matter that I told him not to make it worse. He's always been like that.

EVAN

Well... he's your dad. Goes with the territory. (sighs) But... just because he's your dad doesn't mean he's infallible.

BEN

Oh believe me, I know. I don't ever remember him having a temper like this when mom was alive, but like... I dunno, it's like any time I try to make him think through a problem, he just... punches it.

EVAN

Grief and fear are powerful, traumatic motivators. They make fundamental changes to your brain, change how you react to situations. Considering how your mom died... he probably hasn't left fight or flight mode since it happened.

BEN

Yeah, but he can't just... kill people or derail trains because of it.

EVAN

Wait. Derail trains?

BEN

I'm pretty sure that whatever happened at Union Station when ya'll found Jaina... it was him. I don't know what, but... he just snaps.

EVAN

We all have a lot of rage we have to spend time with. Fact is, there isn't a single person in this country that's had a normal 6 years. We don't even know what "normal" feels like anymore, and we're all still in survival mode. Even the people who benefit from the Stewards running things. They're already stuck in survival mode. Only difference is that they're tilting at windmills.

BEN

(that actually gets a chuckle out of him) I'm sorry, they're doing what to what?

EVAN

It's a Don Quixote reference. People say that.

BEN

Old people say that.

EVAN

Well, if I'm just an old guy, I guess you don't need to borrow my "Old guy" game system next time you need to blow off steam, huh?

BEN

Nonono, kidding! Look, I'm just playing, don't be like that.

EVAN

I dunno, it made you smile, seems worth it to me. Look, your dad will come back. And if he doesn't, he will go somewhere that he thinks is safe.

BEN

There isn't anywhere "safe".

EVAN

Well... then he'll go somewhere that is familiar to him. Somewhere that he can calm down. Primal emotions tend to lead to instinctual responses.

BEN

Somewhere familiar...

(Approaching footsteps)

JULIAN

Uh, hey. Evan... um, look, I have to help smooth this thing over with Casey, but when you get a sec...

EVAN

I work in a medical bay with no doors, but... the curtain's always open, I guess. You know where to find me, Julian.

(Using Julian's arrival as a distraction, Ben zips off before they can stop him. Now, we're back in the city streets outside one of Ben and his father's old crash pads. He climbs up the same steel steps he did before. Ben gets to the door and opens it up.)

PATRIOT

(Roars as he suddenly perceives an attack, goes to punch and stops, honestly shocked he almost hit his kid) Ben!

(Patriot powers down immediately.)

JOHN

Ben, I... oh, god, I could've... what're you *doing* here?!

BEN

What do you mean, what am I doing here? What're *you* doing here?! Why didn't you go back to the Freedom Press? You have any idea how freaking worried I've been? I thought they'd arrested you or shot you or something!

JOHN

(defensive, a bit erratic) I was *fine*. The Stewards were easy to put down. That fascist pig was even easier. I didn't need Avalon or anyone else telling me to stop doing what was necessary.

BEN

What was "necessary?" Are you serious? Dad, this isn't like you. You need to calm down. We should go back –

JOHN

No. The Avalons are out. They got what they wanted and they are gonna go as soon as they can because they can. Their type always does. The Stewards *fear* me. That's exactly what we need.

BEN

This is supposed to be about helping people.

JOHN

It's a revolution, son. We help people by freeing them. Now are you gonna help me or not?

BEN

(sighs, resigned) ...Yes, sir.

(Jaina opens the roof door and walks over to the edges, she takes a seat and trying to clear her head, she starts monologuing like she used to on patrol)

JAINA

Assara... I wish I could have known what you'd gone through before this started... I wish you were here. I could really use you right now. (sighs) In the other world I saw... *everything* that happened to you. And... you were right. Avalons are born in fire... and in blood. (A short pause) But I don't know how to fight this. This is so much more... complicated and daunting. (Struggling not to cry as the weight of it all hits her) Where do I even *start*...

(While she is talking to herself, Sam comes out to join her on the roof and reaches her.)

SAM

Looks like you're starting at the beginning. Not sure if it's too on the nose if I say that aloud or not.

JAINA

(sniffs) How'd you find me?

SAM

Well... figured there might be 3 or 4 places left in the city you'd try to go to think. Ruled our apartment out pretty quick, though. There's a Steward patrol there now, permanent building with that damned logo on it with goosestepping thugs in tacti-cool gear outside. As if to say "Here was once the haven of the Avalons. We've taken a right piss on it."

JAINA

Sam, you should be *sleeping* -

SAM

I'll sleep when I'm not worrying about you. So... at some point when all of this fashionably long brown mop has gone white, I imagine. (beat) Look... I was a right prick about this. I get that you're upset, I know *why*, but... truth is, my priority is you, angel. And if that means getting out of here, I'm inclined to go with that instinct.

JAINA

I *can't* leave, Sam. Not after coming back. I *never* should have left. I should stayed here and -

SAM

Jaina. Angel. You *died*. There was no staying here. I've no idea how you brought yourself back - hell, *you* don't even know that. Who's to say you would've been able to do what you did if your body had been burned in an unmarked mass grave by the Stewards? I'm not sayin' this because I don't want to help, I'm saying that maybe there's a reason why it took this long to come back. Because we are still the Priest and Priestess of Avalon -

JAINA

Yeah, you know, I tried that line on Casey and it felt just as lame when I said it. She also believed it about as much as I believe you right now. Sam, I screwed up. This is on *me*.

SAM

Why are you making it sound like you're doing this alone?

JAINA

That's not what I mean. I am Genesis Avalon! The *vigilante!* The *public vigilante!* I made the No More Heroes problem! I courted the favor of a *war* goddess and I destroyed the hold Obsidian had over the city. But I also blew apart the Underworld. *My* face is the one people remembered first. They brought you back here to lure *me* back, because it's not enough to kill you. It had to be *both* of us. Well, sucks to be them because now that I'm here, I am *digging* in. They wanted the war goddess, they will *have her*.

SAM

Jaina, you do not know what you're asking of the Morrigan. More importantly, you've no idea what *she's* gonna ask from *you*. You don't have to do this by yourself. You shouldn't. I'm staying with you on this.

JAINA

With what powers? What gods? Camulus hasn't spoken to you in six years. I had to drag Morrigan out of the ether for her help this time. I prayed, I begged, I demanded. I am not being used by her this time. This is me telling her what her Priestess requires and she is going to deliver. I will be *sure* of that.

SAM

Fine then. You worry about her asking too much of you, you let me worry about Camulus. (beat) Worry about you.

JAINA

(quiet) Stop. Please. I can't do this right now.

SAM

Do what? Take a second for yourself? You keep telling me to sleep, but when was the last time you did? Really get a full night of it?

JAINA

Probably depends on your definition.

SAM

See? That's what I mean. You think you're gonna be any good to these people if you run yourself ragged? I've never seen you like this, angel. I mean, sure, I've seen you down, I've seen you when we're losing. But... you... this is more.

JAINA

Of *course* it's more. It's *so* much more. (Can feel herself starting to lose control, barely hanging on right now) Sam... do you know what really scares me about calling on Morrigan? More than

anything else? It's that we call her so many things. The War Goddess. The Great Queen. The Triple Goddess. Maiden. Mother. Crone. (beat) I don't want to be a mother, Sam. I don't want my own children. More importantly, I can't *imagine* the terror and rage I would feel bringing a child into this world. And I don't know how to... bury that rage long enough to see past tomorrow. What if that's what she'll demand of me? I was the Maiden so the Mother would be next. What if she leaves me? I couldn't summon Mananan. The God of Storms ignored me. What if she does too?

SAM

Jaina...

JAINA

Sam, Avalons are born in fire and blood. I'm a creature of loss and war and I know that's who I am, but I don't want anyone else's children to have to be that way. I... I want a world where they don't have to be scared. I don't want a world where people need to have *papers* or they get dragged into unmarked vans! Where parents could lose their children because of some trigger-happy authoritarian with a cause! Ben has been dragged bodily into this war because he lost his mom when he was eleven! *Eleven, Sam!* How could I ever go off and just live my life knowing that **I made this problem?!** And I don't even know how to start but I just know that I'm - I... I feel like I'm drowning in the water all over again. I remember what it was like to choke on my own blood and I feel every second of that terror over again every time I try to think about how we fix this mess I made! I feel like I'm going to just... sink into the floor and melt away, like the weight of all of this is going to crush me! I just want to wake up in the morning in a world where I don't have to feel this oppressive, all-consuming sorrow that I couldn't save hundreds of millions of people! Where it was good enough to just save three or four and that the world would look out for *itself!* How do I do that, Sam?! How do I even get up when it feels like I should just stay the hell down for a change?! How do I go back to England and tell Tim how to bring forth peace when I can't even get my own home to stop murdering its own?! Demons might be in power but people *put them there!* And people are *keeping* them there!

SAM

(rushes to her, trying to calm her down because he's scared for her, never seen her like this) Woah woah woah, hey! Oi, Jaina. Jaina! You listen to me, okay? Look at me, you need to breathe, that's the first thing you need to do. And then I need you to listen to me. *Really* listen to what I'm about to say. (beat) *None* of this is your fault. And before you say I'm patronizing you, I am not telling you anything you haven't already thought or said. But I think you need to hear it from someone else. **You. did not. Start. This.**

JAINA

But I was the one... I gave them a symbol...

SAM

That others exploited. This *is* so much bigger than anything else because it's systems, it's millions of people that backed assholes like Tunannu not knowing the truth. But, angel, this is

not on you. And I get why it scares you, why you feel so guilty, but... (quiet, almost distracted) Oh, gods, I hate it when you cry, I hate this for you, angel... Avalon was just a spark. Someone else set that fire into place, and it wasn't anything we could have seen coming. But that does not mean you're a failure, and it doesn't mean you have to solve it all *today*. You just have to start with one step. One little thing. And more importantly, I *need* you to start with yourself.

JAINA

How can I possibly think about myself right now, it's all I've done -

SAM

That's bollocks and we both know it. You just busted your arse for six years training Jack and Alicia everything they need to lead and counsel the King. You've been guiding them, guiding *Tim*. And I don't know how you've been carrying this whole fear of Morrigan making you the mother. And you say you're not a mother, love, but I don't think that's true. You are. You *are* maternal. To *them*. To Tim. To... hell, to the kid who saved my life, Ben. Jaina, I don't think any less of you because you don't want to have a kid. That's never been a problem for me. Because your heart is so bloody big, you're trying to be a mother bear for the entire world. *That* is why the Morrigan chose you, Jaina. She didn't need your body to bear children.

JAINA

Gods... stop...

SAM

She needs your soul and your mind to nurture and teach them. And *that* is who you are. You *are* Genesis Avalon, the priestess of the Morrigan. You are the War Goddess who wields swords and feels the fight thrumming in her bones. But you don't fight for people because you crave the fight. It's because you care about people. And that is what has been fueling you for so long, but... angel... no one person is meant to carry the suffering of 7 billion lives on their shoulders.

JAINA

One person suffering is *enough*, Sam.

SAM

I agree. (swallows thickly, trying really hard to be strong seeing her this broken) So, for *me*? Start with yourself. You are suffering. I can't stand to see it anymore than you do. This problem took people as a whole to create... It's gonna need far more than just one person to solve it. But if anyone's going to figure out a way to get through this, to get people like Tim and Ben and Casey through this... it's you. I know you feel like you're drowning. But it's *okay* to let yourself come up for air. I've got you. And if you're staying. I'm staying.

JAINA

(starts to cry as she finally lets it out) I'm staying...

(Sam hugs her tight and quietly comforts her as she cries.)

(Vanguard speeds her and Noir to the US/Canada border, a very small outpost)

VANGUARD

Okay, there are only three checkpoints this close to Montreal, this one has the fewest personnel.

NOIR

Well, not exactly as if they'll be looking for a cat anyway.

VANGUARD

Are you sure about this, man?

NOIR

There is far more at risk here than my own safety. I *must* be sure about this.

(He shakes her hand)

NOIR

Thank you, Vanguard. Please look after them. I know that you and Jaina have... a difficult relationship. And I know that it is an earned conflict, but... please believe me when I say she is trying to make up for past mistakes. And if we cannot learn to forgive others... that is not a world I think any of us want to live in. And it's not the world that I remember the Voice of Freedom advocating for.

VANGUARD

You... You listened to my broadcasts, too?

NOIR

Who do you think told Sam about them in the first place? My role as their guardian is to know how the world around them perceives them. So, please. Look after them. Look after yourselves. And I promise you, I will make sure His Majesty leaves this foolish path behind.

VANGUARD

(clears her throat) Get out of here. Go. Good luck.

(Transformation sound, followed by a cat's meow.)

NOIR

What's that you say? Freedom is calling?

VANGUARD

(a little conflicted) Be a patriot.

NOIR

It's odd. Your version of patriotism and John's version don't seem to be quite the same...

(And then Noir, in cat form, scampers off)

VANGUARD

Stupid little... cat and his... random bits of good advice before he leaves...

(Sudden sound of jeeps rolling up.)

VANGUARD

That's... a lot of vehicles.

(Hears a helicopter overhead.)

RYAN

(over her comm) Vanguard, come in. Let us know if you're okay.

VANGUARD

I'm here. Package has been delivered, I'm on my way back. Guessing you're calling about the squadron of Steward cars that just rolled up?

RYAN

Canada just put out a new press brief. They're pulling out of their treaty with the US. It's getting bad.

VANGUARD

... Then we have a lot of work to do.

(She speeds off.)

[Genesis Avalon: Patriot theme plays]

Featuring the voice talents of:

Laura Post as Jaina Tyler/Genesis Avalon

David Ault as Sam Tyler

Ben Hernandez as Ben Pellson/Minuteman

Juwan Royal as John Pellson/Patriot

Anna Kelly Rodriguez as Casey Sloane/Vanguard

Chris Hackney as Noir

Mark Allen Jr as Evan Spencer

Paul Brueggemann as Leo Blake

Anthony Fleece as Julian Alexander

Devyn Boer as Ryan

Jillian Morgan as Calhoun Masters
Eric Valdes as Nick Jones/Ninurta
And Pete Milan as Tom Connors/Tunaanu the Leviathan

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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